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71) Applicant: **TOKUYAMA SODA KABUSHIKI**
KAISHA
 1-1 Mikage-cho
 Tokuyama-shi Yamaguchi-ken(JP)

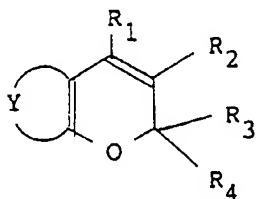
72) Inventor: Tanaka, Takashi
 4488, Tonda

Shin-nanyo-shi(JP)
 Inventor: Imura, Satoshi
 7-3, Hanabatake-cho
Tokuyama-shi, Yamaguchi-ken(JP)
 Inventor: Tanaka, Kenji
 8229-2, Oaza Tokuyama
Tokuyama-shi, Yamaguchi-ken(JP)
 Inventor: Kida, Yasuji
 61-36, Seutakeshimi
Kudamatsu-shi, Yamaguchi-ken(JP)

74) Representative: Cresswell, Thomas Anthony
 et al
 J.A. Kemp & Co. 14 South Square Gray's Inn
 London WC1R 5EU(GB)

56) Photochromic compound, composition and use thereof.

57) Disclosed is a compound represented by the following general formula(I):



(I)

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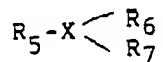
wherein R₁ and R₂, which may be the same or different, represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group, an aralkyl group or a substituted amino group, R₃ and R₄, which may be the same or different, represent an alkyl group, or R₃ and R₄ together form a norbornylidene group or bicyclo[3.3.1]nonylidene group which may have a substituent, and



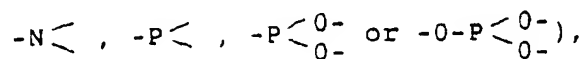
represents a divalent aromatic hydrocarbon group or divalent unsaturated heterocyclic group which may have a substituent, with the proviso that when R₃ and R₄ represent an alkyl group,



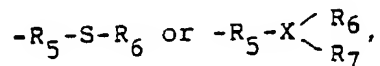
represents a bicyclic aromatic fused ring which is substituted with at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkoxy group, $-R_5-S-R_6$ and



(in which R_5 represents an alkylene group or $\{O-R_8\}_n$ (in which R_8 represents an alkylene group and n is a positive integer), R_6 and R_7 , which may be the same or different, represent an alkyl group, and X represents



at least one of the substituents being an alkyl group having 6 to 20 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 6 to 20 carbon atoms,



a composition comprising this compound, and a photochromic lens composed of this composition.

PHOTOCHROMIC COMPOUND, COMPOSITION AND USE THEREOF

Background of the Invention

5 (1) Field of the Invention

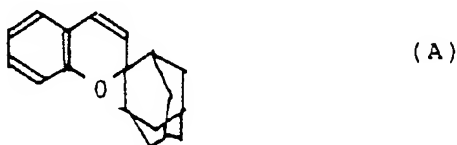
The present invention relates to a novel compound having a photochromic action, a composition comprising this compound, and a use thereof. More particularly, the present invention relates to a novel compound which is colored from the colorless state under irradiation of an ultraviolet ray-containing light such as sunlight or a light of a mercury lamp, this change is reversible and the color fading speed is high, a composition comprising this novel compound and a use thereof.

15 (2) Description of the Related Art

The photochromism is the phenomenon which has attracted attention in these several years, and this phenomenon is a reversible phenomenon in which when a certain compound is irradiated with an ultraviolet ray-containing light such as sunlight or a light of a mercury lamp, the color of the compound is promptly changed and when the irradiation is stopped and the compound is placed in the dark place, the original color is manifested again. The compound having this property is called "photochromic compound", and various photochromic compound have been synthesized. However, a special common structure is not found among these compounds.

The specification of U.S. Patent No. 4,826,977 discloses spiroadamantane compounds represented by the following formulae (A) and (B):

25



30

and

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The compound (A) is poor in the practical utility because the coloration is caused only at temperatures lower than 10°C. The compound (B) shows a photochromic characteristic at temperatures close to normal temperature (10 to 40°C), and it is known that the compound is changed to a yellow or orange color from the colorless state. However, in the spiroadamantane compound (B), the colored form is relatively stable and the color fading speed at the ambient temperature is not so high, presumably because of the presence of the bulky adamantylidene group. Therefore, when this compound is used for a photochromic lens, even by stopping irradiation with sunlight, a long time is required for restoring the lens to the colorless form from the colored form.

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Summary of the Invention

It is therefore a primary object of the present invention to provide a novel compound having a photochromic action.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a photochromic compound in which the color fading time required for restoring the compound to the colorless form from the colored form is short.

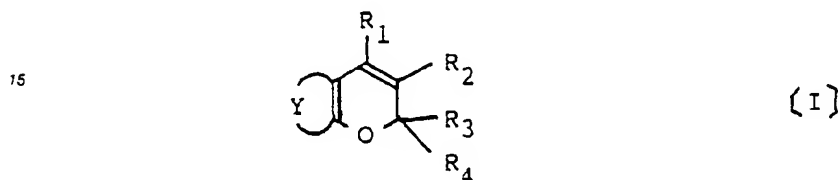
Still another object of the present invention is to provide a photochromic compound having a practical utility.

5 A further object of the present invention is to provide a polymer composition comprising a photochromic compound.

A still further object of the present invention is to provide a photochromic lens having a practical utility.

As the result of research made by us, it was found that these objects can be attained by a photochromic compound described below.

10 More specifically, in accordance with the present invention, there is provided a compound represented by the following general formula [I]:



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wherein R_1 and R_2 which may be the same or different, represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group, an aralkyl group or a substituted amino group, R_3 and R_4 which may be the same or different, represent an alkyl group, or R_3 and R_4 together form a norbornylidene group or bicyclo [3.3.1]9-nonylidene group which may have a substituent, and

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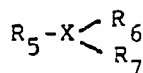


30 represents a divalent aromatic hydrocarbon group or divalent unsaturated heterocyclic group may have a substituent, with the proviso that when R_3 and R_4 represent an alkyl group.



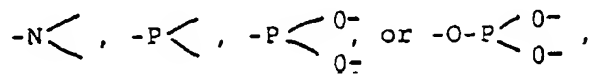
35 represents a bicyclic aromatic fused ring which is substituted with at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkoxy group, $-R_5-S-R_6$ and

40



in which R_5 represents an alkylene group or $\{O-R_8\}_n$ (in which R_8 represents an alkylene group and n is a positive integer), R_6 and R_7 , which may be the same or different, represent an alkyl group, and X represents

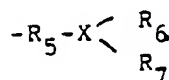
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at least one of the substituents being an alkyl group having 6 to 20 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 6 to 20 carbon atoms, $-R_5-S-R_6$ or

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The foregoing and other objects and features of the present invention will become more apparent from

the following description.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Fig. 1, 2 and 3 are ¹H-nuclear magnetic resonance spectrum charts of compounds obtained in Example 1, 31 and 121, respectively.

Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments

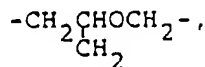
In the above-mentioned general formula [I], R₁ and R₂, which may be the same or different, represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group, an aralkyl group or a substituted amino group.

As substituted amino group, there can be mentioned an alkylamino group, a dialkylamino group and a monovalent group derived from a 4- to 7-membered monocyclic saturated heterocyclic ring containing at least one nitrogen atom, or a nitrogen atom and an oxygen atom or sulfur atom. The 4- to 7-membered monocyclic saturated heterocyclic ring is represented by the following formula:

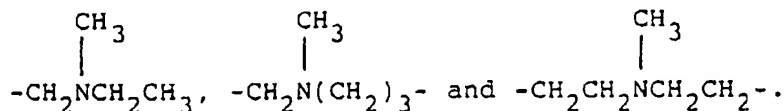


wherein R₉ represents an alkylene group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms, an oxyalkylene group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms, a thioalkylene group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms or an azoalkylene group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms.

As specific examples of R₉ in the above-mentioned formula, there can be mentioned alkylene group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms, such as a tetramethylene group and a pentamethylene group, oxyalkylene groups having 3 to 6 carbon atoms, such as



---CH₂OCH₂CH₂---, ---CH₂CH₂OCH₂CH₂--- and ---CH₂O(CH₂)₃---, thioalkylene groups having 3 to 6 carbon atoms, such as ---CH₂SCH₂CH₂---, ---CH₂S(CH₂)₃--- or ---CH₂CH₂SCH₂CH₂---, and azoalkylene groups having 3 to 6 carbon atoms, such as



As specific examples of R₁ and R₂, there can be mentioned alkyl groups having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, such as a methyl group, an ethyl group, a propyl group, a butyl group, a pentyl group, an octyl group and a decyl group, aryl groups having 6 to 10 carbon atoms, such as a phenyl group, a tolyl group and a naphthyl group, and aralkyl groups having 7 to 10 carbon atoms, such as a benzyl group, a phenetyl group, a phenylpropyl group and a phenylbutyl group. As the substituted amino group, there can be mentioned alkylamino groups having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, such as a methylamino group, an ethylamino group, dialkylamino groups having 2 to 8 carbon atoms, such as a dimethylamino group and a diethylamino group, and monovalent groups derived from 4- to 7-membered mono-cyclic saturated heterocyclic rings containing at least one nitrogen atom, or a nitrogen atom and an oxygen atom or sulfur atom, such as a pyrrolidine ring, a piperidine ring, a piperazine ring, a morpholine ring and a thiazolidine ring.

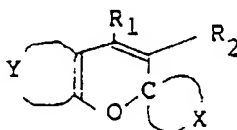
Among them, a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, an aryl group having 6 to 10 carbon atoms, an aralkyl group having 7 to 10 carbon atoms and a monovalent group derived from a 5-

or 6-membered monocyclic saturated heterocyclic ring containing up to 20 nitrogen atoms, or one nitrogen atom and one oxygen or sulfur atom are preferable as R_1 and R_2 .

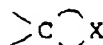
The color fading speed of the compound of general formula [I] can be adjusted by selecting an appropriate group for R_1 or R_2 . For example, when R_1 and R_2 represent an alkyl group, a high color fading speed can be obtained, probably because it is difficult for the compound to take the trans form where the compound is in the colored state. When R_1 is a substituted amino group, since the trans form where the compound is in the colored state is stabilized by the resonance, a high coloration density can be obtained, but the color fading speed is relatively low. Furthermore, the compound where both of R_1 and R_2 represent a hydrogen atom is characterized in that the compound is especially densely colored and the color fading speed is high.

In general formula [I], R_3 and R_4 , which may be the same or different, represent an alkyl group, or they together form a norbornylidene group or bicyclo[3.3.1]9-nonylidene group which may have a substituent. As the alkyl group, there can be mentioned alkyl groups having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, such as a methyl group, an ethyl group and a butyl group. A compound in which both of R_3 and R_4 represent a methyl group is especially preferable.

In accordance with one preferred embodiment of the present invention, there is provided a compound represented by the following general formula [II]:



wherein

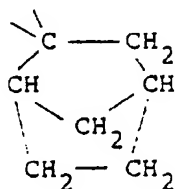


represents a norbornylidene group or bicyclo[3.3.1]9-nonylidene group which may have a substituent.

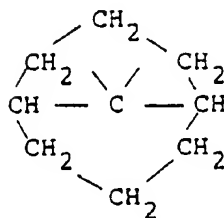


represents a divalent aromatic hydrocarbon group or divalent unsaturated heterocyclic group which may have a substitute, and R_1 and R_2 , which may be the same or different, represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group, an aralkyl group or a substituted amino group.

The norbornylidene group is represented by the following formula:



and the bicyclo[3.3.1]9-nonylidene group is represented by the following formula:



5

10 Hydrogen atoms of the norbornylidene group and bicyclo[3.3.1]9-nonylidene group represented by the above formulae can be substituted with substituents. The number of substituents can be 1 or larger, preferably 1 to 3. The kind, number and position of the substituents are appropriately selected according to the intended object and use. In the case where the norbornylidene group or bicyclo[3.3.1]9-nonylidene group have a plurality of substituents, these substituents may be the same or different.

15 As the substituent of the norbornylidene group or bicyclo[3.3.1]9-nonylidene group, there can be mentioned halogen atoms such as fluorine, chlorine and bromine, a hydroxyl group, a cyano group, a nitro group, a carboxyl group, alkyl groups having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, such as a methyl group, an ethyl group, a propyl group and a butyl group, alkoxy groups having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, such as a methoxy group, an ethoxy group, a propoxy group and a butoxy group, halogenoalkyl groups having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, such as a trifluoromethyl group, aryl groups having 6 to 10 carbon atoms, such as a phenyl group, a tolyl group and a naphthyl group, aryloxy groups having 6 to 10 carbon atoms, such as a phenyloxy group, a tolyloxy group and a naphthyloxy group, aralkyl groups having 7 to 10 carbon atoms, such as a benzyl group, a phenetyl group and a phenylpropyl group, aralkoxy groups having 7 to 10 carbon atoms, such as a benzyloxy group, a phenyloxy group and a phenylpropyloxy group, alkylamino groups having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, such as a methylamino group and an ethylamino group, dialkylamino groups having 2 to 8 carbon atoms, such as a dimethylamino group and a diethylamino group, and alkoxycarbonyl groups having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, such as a methoxycarbonyl group and an ethoxycarbonyl group.

25 As preferable examples of the substituent, there can be mentioned a halogen atom, a cyano group, an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, a halogenoalkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, an aryl group having 6 to 10 carbon atoms, an aralkyl group having 7 to 10 carbon atoms and a dialkyl-amino group having 2 to 8 carbon atoms.

In the above-mentioned general formula [I] in the present invention,

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represents a divalent aromatic hydrocarbon group or divalent unsaturated heterocyclic group which may have a substituent. The aromatic hydrocarbon group has 6 to 18 carbon atoms, preferably 6 to 14 carbon atoms, and a divalent group derived from one benzene ring or a fused ring comprising 2 to 4 benzene rings is especially preferable. As examples of the ring constituting the aromatic hydrocarbon group, there can be mentioned a benzene ring, a naphthalene ring and a phenanthrene ring.

40 As the unsaturated heterocyclic group, there can be mentioned a 5- or 6-membered monocyclic heterocyclic group containing one or two of nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur atoms, or a fused heterocyclic group formed by fusing a benzene ring to the above-mentioned monocyclic heterocyclic group. As the ring constituting the unsaturated heterocyclic group, there can be mentioned nitrogen-containing rings such as a pyridine ring, a quinoline ring and a pyrrole ring, oxygen-containing rings such as a furan ring and a benzofuran ring, and sulfur-containing rings such as a thiophene ring and a benzothiophene ring.

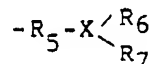
The aromatic hydrocarbon group or unsaturated hetero-cyclic group represented by

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55 may have up to 5 substituents, preferably up to 3 substituents. As examples of the substituent, there can be mentioned halogen atoms such as fluorine, chlorine and bromine, a hydroxyl group, a cyano group, a nitro group, aryl groups having 6 to 10 carbon atoms, such as a phenyl group, a tolyl group and a naphthyl group, alkylamino groups having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, such as a methylamino group and an ethylamino group, dialkylamino groups having 2 to 8 carbon atoms, such as a dimethylamino group and a diethylamino group.

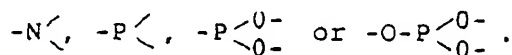
group, halogenoalkyl groups having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, such as a trifluoromethyl group, monovalent groups derived from 5- or 6-membered monocyclic heterocyclic groups having one or two of sulfur, oxygen and nitrogen atoms, such as a thienyl group, a furyl group, a pyrrolyl group and a pyridyl group, alkyl groups having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, such as a methyl group, an ethyl group, a propyl group, a butyl group, a pentyl group, a hexyl group, a heptyl group, an octyl group, a nonyl group, a decyl group, an undecyl group, a dodecyl group, a tridecyl group, a pentadecyl group, an octadecyl group and an eicosyl group, alkoxy groups having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, such as a methoxy group, an ethoxy group, a propoxy group, a butoxy group, a pentoxy group, a hexyloxy group, a heptyloxy group, an octyloxy group, a nonyloxy group, a decyloxy group, an undecyloxy group, a dodecyloxy group, a pentadecyloxy group, an octadecyloxy group and an eicosyloxy group, and $-R_5-S-R_6$ and



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in which R_5 represents an alkylene group or $\{O-R_8\}_n$ (in which R_8 represents an alkylene group and n is a positive integer), R_6 and R_7 , which may be the same or different, represent an alkyl group, and X represents

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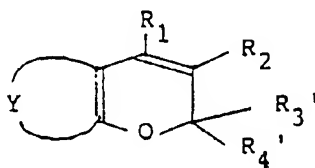


In the alkylene groups represented by R_5 and R_8 of the above substituents, the carbon number is not particularly critical, but in general, alkylene groups having 1 to 20 carbon atoms are selected. In view of the durability of the obtained compound as the photochromic material, alkylene groups having 6 to 20 carbon atoms are preferable. As specific examples of the alkylene group, there can be mentioned a methylene group, an ethylene group, a propylene group, a trimethylene group, a tetramethylene group, a pentamethylene group, a hexamethylene group, a heptamethylene group, an octamethylene group, a nonamethylene group, a decamethylene group, an undecamethylene group, a dodecamethylene group, a tridecamethylene group, a pentadecamethylene group, an octadecamethylene group and an eicosamethylene group. In $-\{O-R_8\}_n$ represented by R_5 , n can be a positive integer, but it is generally preferred that n be selected so that the carbon number of the chain represented by $-\{O-R_8\}_n$ is 1 to 20, especially 6 to 20. Therefore, n is generally selected in the range of from 1 to 20.

In the alkyl groups represented by R_6 and R_7 , the carbon number is not particularly critical, but in view of the color fading speed of the obtained compound as the photochromic material, it is preferred that the carbon number be 1 to 4.

In accordance with another preferred embodiment of the present invention, there is provided a compound represented by the following general formula (III):

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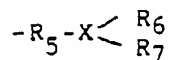
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wherein R_1 and R_2 , which may be the same or different, represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group, an aralkyl group or a substituted amino group, R_3' and R_4' , which may be the same or different, represent an alkyl group,

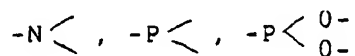
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represents a bicyclic aromatic fused ring which is substituted with at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkoxy group, $-R_5-S-R_6$ and

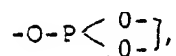


5 (in which R_5 represents an alkylene group or $\{O-R_8\}_n$ (in which R_8 represents an alkylene group and n is a positive integer), R_6 and R_7 , which may be the same or different, represent an alkyl group, and X represents



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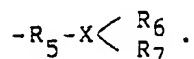
or



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at least one of the substituents being an alkyl group having 6 to 20 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 6 to 20 carbon atoms, $-R_5-S-R_6$ or

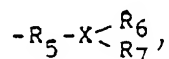
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25 In the above-mentioned general formula (III),



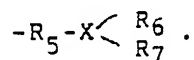
30 represents a bicyclic aromatic fused ring which is substituted with at least one substituents selected from the group consisting of the above-mentioned halogen atoms, alkyl groups, alkoxy groups, $-R_5-S-R_6$ and



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in which at least one of the substituents should be an alkyl group having 6 to 20 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 6 to 20 carbon atoms, $-R_5-S-R_6$ or

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45 The bicyclic aromatic fused ring corresponds to a group formed by fusion of two 5- or 6-membered rings containing or not containing an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom or a nitrogen atom as the above-mentioned divalent aromatic hydrocarbon group or divalent unsaturated heterocyclic group.

In the case where R_3 and R_4 in the above-mentioned general formula (I) together form a norbornylidene group or bicyclo(3.3.1)nonylidene group, which may have a substituent,

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55 is preferably a divalent aromatic hydrocarbon group or divalent unsaturated heterocyclic group which may have at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a cyano group, a nitro group, an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, an aryl group having 6 to 10 carbon atoms, a dialkyl amino group having 2 to 8 carbon atoms, a halogenoalkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms and a monocyclic heterocyclic group.

Furthermore,



5 preferably represents a divalent group derived from a benzene ring or a fused ring comprising 2 to 4 benzene rings, or a divalent group derived from a 5-membered or 6-membered monocyclic heterocyclic ring containing one or two of oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen atoms or a fused ring formed by fusion of a benzene ring to this monocyclic heterocyclic ring, which may have 1 to 3 substituents selected from the above-mentioned substituents.

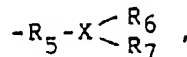
10 Moreover,



15 preferably represents a benzene ring, naphthalene ring, phenanthrene ring, pyridine ring, quinoline ring, pyrrole ring, furan ring, benzofuran ring, thiophene ring or benzothiophene ring which may have 1 to 3 substituents selected from the above-mentioned substituents.

In the case where both of R_3 and R_4 in the above-mentioned general formula (I) represent an alkyl group, as the bicyclic aromatic fused ring, there can be mentioned a naphthalene ring, a quinoline ring, an isoquinoline ring, an indole ring, an isoindole ring, a benzofuran ring and a benzothiophene ring. A compound in which an aromatic ring is fused at the 7,8-positions of the chromene is preferably used as the photochromic material because the coloration density is especially high.

In the case where the substituent of the bicyclic aromatic fused ring includes an alkyl group having 6 to 20 carbon atoms or an alkoxy group having 6 to 20 carbon atoms, the obtained compound is a photochromic material having an excellent durability. In contrast, in the case where the substituent of the bicyclic aromatic fused ring includes $-R_5-S-R_6$ or



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the obtained compound is a photochromic material having a high color fading speed.

The compound represented by the above-mentioned general formula (I) is a colorless or light yellow solid or viscous liquid at normal temperature under atmospheric pressure, and the compound can be identified, for example, by the following means (a) through (c).

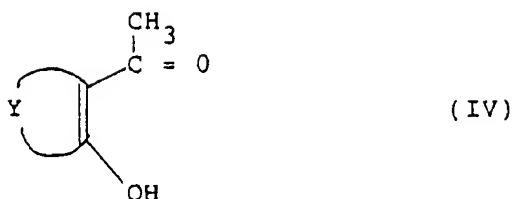
(a) By measuring the proton nuclear magnetic resonance spectrum (1H -NMR), the kind and number of protons present in the molecule can be known. Namely, a peak attributed to the aromatic proton appears in the vicinity of δ 7 to 8.5 ppm and a broad peak attributed to the proton of the norbornylidene group or bicyclo[3,3,1]nonylidene group appears in the vicinity of δ 1.2 to 2.5 ppm. In the case where both of R_1 and R_2 represent a hydrogen atom, a peak attributed to the proton of the alkene appears in the vicinity of δ 5.5 to 7.0 ppm. By comparing the intensities of the δ peaks with one another, the numbers of protons of the respective binding groups can be known.

(b) The contents (% by weight) of carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, sulfur and halogen can be determined by the elementary analysis. Furthermore, the content (% by weight) of oxygen can be calculated by subtracting the sum of the contents (% by weight) of the confirmed elements from 100. Accordingly, the composition of the product can be determined.

(c) By measuring the ^{13}C -nuclear magnetic resonance spectrum, the kind of the carbon present in the molecule can be known. A peak attributed to the carbon of the norbornylidene group or bicyclo[3,3,1]nonylidene group appears in the vicinity of δ 27 to 52 ppm, and in the case where both of R_1 and R_2 represents an alkyl group, a peak attributed to the carbon of the alkyl group appears in the vicinity of δ 15 to 35 ppm and a peak attributed to the carbon of the aromatic hydrocarbon group or unsaturated heterocyclic group appears in the vicinity of δ 110 to 150 ppm.

The process for the preparation of the compound of general formula (I) according to the present invention is not particularly critical. Typical processes preferably adopted will now be described.

55 More specifically, a compound of general formula (II) in which R_1 and R_2 represent a hydrogen atom or a substituted amino group, with the proviso that at least one of R_1 and R_2 is a substituted amino group, can be prepared by reacting a compound represented by the following general formula (IV):



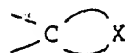
10
wherein



is as defined in general formula (II),
with a compound represented by the following general formula (V):



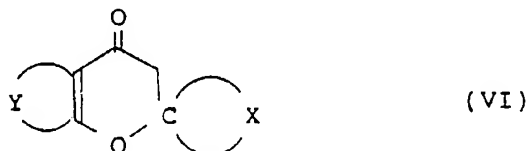
25
wherein



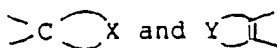
30
is as defined in general formula (II),
in the presence of a primary amine or secondary amine.

The reaction between the compound of general formula (IV) and the compound of general formula (V) is carried out in the following manner. The reaction ratio between the two compounds can be selected from a broad range, but in general, this reaction ratio is in the range of from 1/10 to 10/1 (molar ratio). The reaction temperature is preferably 0 to 200°C. A polar nonprotogenic solvent such as N-methylpyrrolidone, dimethylformamide or tetrahydrofuran is used as the reaction solvent. At this reaction, a condensing agent represented by a primary amine such as N-ethylamine or N-propylamine or a secondary amine such as pyrrolidine, piperidine or morpholine is used in an amount of 0.1 to 10 moles per mole of the compound of general formula (IV), and the reaction can be completed by removing water formed during the reaction. As the means for removing water, there can be mentioned a method in which water is removed from the reaction system by using a Dean-Stark apparatus, and a method in which a dehydrating agent such as calcium chloride, calcium oxide or zinc chloride is added into the reaction system and water formed in the reaction system is removed by this dehydrating agent. Any of these methods can be adopted.

By this reaction, a chromanone compound represented by the following general formula (VI):



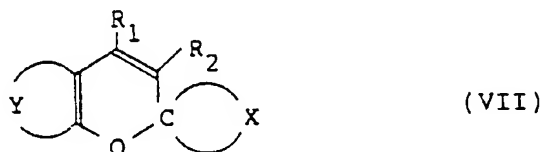
50
wherein



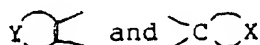
are as defined in general formula (II),

is obtained.

If the above reaction is further conducted, a compound of general formula (II) in which at least one of R_1 and R_2 is a substituted amino group, that is, a compound represented by the following general formula (VII):



wherein



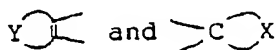
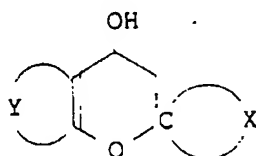
hydrogen atom or a substituted amino group, with the proviso that at least one R_1 and R_2 is a substituted amino group,

20

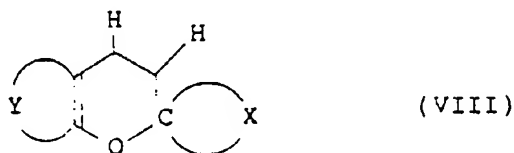
is obtained.

A compound of the above-mentioned general formula (II) in which each of R_1 and R_2 is a hydrogen atom can be prepared in the following manner. Namely, a chromanone compound of general formula (VI) is reacted with a reducing agent such as sodium boron hydride or lithium aluminum hydride to form a chromanol compound represented by the following formula:

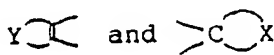
25



and then, this compound is dehydrated with a dehydrating agent such as anhydrous copper sulfate to obtain a compound represented by the following general formula (VIII):

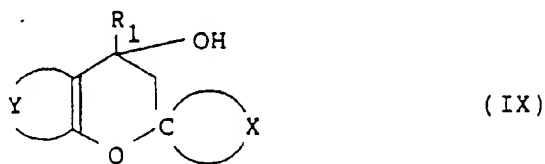


wherein

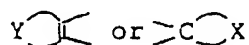


A compound of general formula (II) in which R_1 is an alkyl group, aralkyl group or aryl group can be

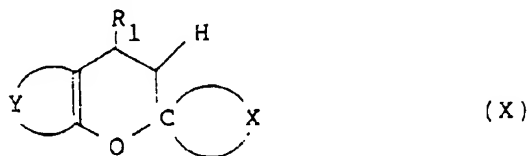
prepared in the following manner. Namely, a chromanone compound represented by the above-mentioned formula (VI) is reacted with an organic metal compound such as an alkyl magnesium halide or an alkyl lithium halide to form a chromanol compound represented by the following general formula (IX):



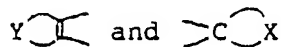
wherein



are as defined in general formula (II), and R_1 represents an alkyl group, an aralkyl group or an aryl group. and then, this chromanol compound is dehydrated with a dehydrating agent such as anhydrous copper sulfate to obtain a compound represented by the following general formula (X):

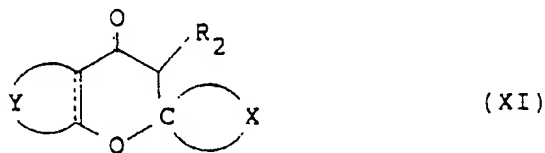


wherein

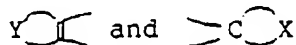


are as defined in general formula (II), and R_1 represents an alkyl group, an aralkyl group or an aryl group.

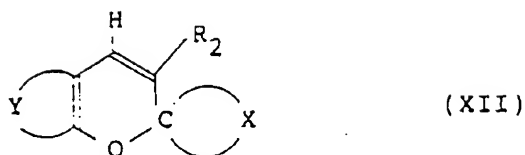
A compound of general formula (II) where R_2 represents an alkyl group, an aralkyl group or an aryl group can be prepared in the following manner. Namely, a compound represented by general formula (VII) is reacted with an alkyl halide, an aryl halide or an aralkyl halide to obtain a chromanone compound represented by the following general formula (XI):



wherein



are as defined in general formula (II), and R_2 represents an alkyl group, an aralkyl group or an aryl group. and then, this chromanone compound is reduced in the same manner as described above and dehydrated with a dehydrating agent to obtain a compound represented by the following general formula (XII):

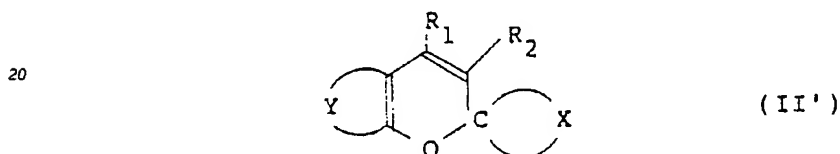


wherein

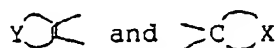


are as defined in general formula (II), and R_2 represents an alkyl group, an aralkyl group or an aryl group.

15 Furthermore, if a chromanone compound of general formula (XI) is reacted with an organic metal compound such as an alkyl magnesium halide in the same manner as described above and is then dehydrated with a dehydrating agent, a compound represented by the following general formula (II'):



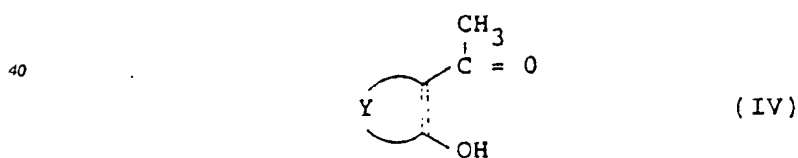
25 wherein



30 are as defined in general formula (II), and R_1 and R_2 , which may be the same or different, represent an alkyl group, an aralkyl group or an aryl group.
is obtained.

The process for the preparation of the compound represented by the above-mentioned general formula (III) will now be described.

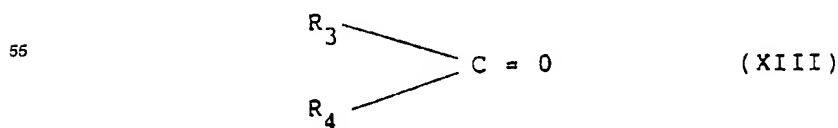
35 At first, a compound represented by the following general formula (IV):



45 wherein

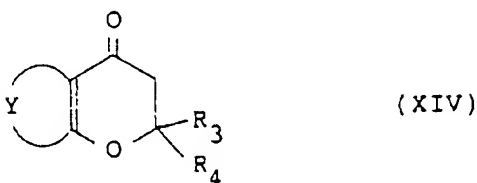


50 is as defined in general formula (III),
is reacted with a ketone represented by the following general formula (XIII):

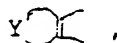


wherein R_3 and R_4 are as defined in general formula (III),

in the presence of a condensing agent to obtain a compound represented by the following general formula (XIV):



wherein



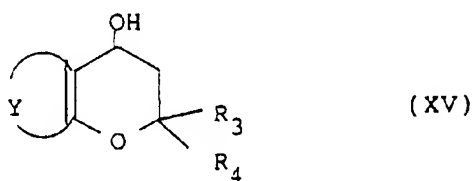
R_3 and R_4 are as defined in general formula (III).

20 The reaction between the compound of general formula (IV) and the compound of general formula (XIII) is carried out in the following manner. The reaction ratio between the two compounds can be selected in a broad range, but in general, the reaction ratio is selected in the range of from 1:10 to 10/1 (molar ratio). It is generally preferred that the reaction temperature be 0 to 200°C. A polar nonprotogenic solvent such as N-methylpyrrolidone, dimethylformamide or tetrahydrofuran is used as the reaction solvent. At this reaction, a condensing agent represented by a secondary amine such as pyrrolidine, piperidine or morpholine is used

25 in an amount of 0.1 to 10 moles per mole of the compound represented by general formula (IV), and the reaction is completed by removing water formed by the reaction. As the means for removing water, there can be mentioned a method in which water is removed from the reaction system by using a Dean-Stark apparatus, and a method in which a dehydrating agent such as calcium chloride, calcium oxide or zinc chloride is added to the reaction system and water formed in the reaction system is removed by this

30 dehydrating agent. Any of these methods can be adopted.

A compound represented by the above-mentioned general formula (III) can be obtained by reacting the above-mentioned chromanone compound with a reducing agent such as sodium boron hydride or lithium aluminum hydride to form a chromanol compound represented by the following general formula (XV):



wherein



R_3 and R_4 are as defined in general formula (III),

50 and dehydrating the chromanol compound with a dehydrating agent such as anhydrous copper sulfate.

As another synthesis process, there can be mentioned a process in which a compound represented by the following general formula (XVI):



wherein



is as defined in general formula (III),

is reacted with 3-methyl-2-butenal ($\text{OHCH}=\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_2$) in the presence of a condensing agent to form a compound represented by the above-mentioned general formula (III) in which both of R_3 and R_4 represent a methyl group.

The reaction between the compound of general formula (XVI) and 3-methyl-2-butenal is carried out in the following manner. The reaction ratio between the two compounds can be selected in a broad range, but in general, the reaction ratio is selected in the range of from 1/10 to 10/1 (molar ratio). It is generally preferred that the reaction temperature be 0 to 200°C. A polar nonprotogenic solvent such as N-methylpyrrolidone, dimethylformamide, tetrahydrofuran, chloroform or carbon tetrachloride is used as the reaction solvent. At this reaction, a metal compound, for example, a tetravalent titanium compound such as titanium (IV) ethoxide, titanium (IV) isopropoxide or titanium (IV) chloride, a magnesium compound such as diethyl magnesium, dipropyl magnesium or magnesium chloride, an aluminum compound such as aluminum methoxide, aluminum ethoxide, aluminum isopropoxide or aluminum chloride, or a tin (IV) compound such as tin (IV) chloride is used as the condensing agent in an amount of 0.1 to 10 moles per mole of the compound of general formula (XVI).

The compound of the above-mentioned general formula (I) according to the present invention is well soluble in ordinary organic solvents such as toluene, chloroform and tetrahydrofuran. If the compound of general formula (I) is dissolved in such an organic solvent, the solution is generally colorless and transparent. When the solution is irradiated with sunlight or ultraviolet rays, the solution is promptly colored. If the solution is insulated from the light, the solution is promptly restored to the original colorless state. Thus, the compound of general formula (I) shows a good reversible photochromic action. This photochromic action of the compound of general formula (I) is also caused in a polymeric solid matrix. Any of polymers in which the compound of general formula (I) according to the present invention is uniformly dispersed can be used as the polymer constituting the polymeric matrix. From the optical viewpoint, there are preferably used polymethyl acrylate, polyethyl acrylate, polymethyl methacrylate, polyethyl methacrylate, polystyrene, polyacrylonitrile, polyvinyl alcohol, polyacrylamide, poly(2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate), polydimethylsiloxane, polycarbonate, poly(allyl diglycol carbonate), and copolymers of monomers constituting these polymers and copolymers of these monomers with other monomers.

The compound of general formula (I) according to the present invention is dispersed in a polymer as mentioned above in an amount of 0.001 to 70 parts by weight, preferably 0.005 to 30 parts by weight, per 100 parts by weight of the polymer.

The compound of the present invention is superior to the conventional spiroadamantane compounds especially in the color fading speed.

Accordingly, the compound of the present invention can be widely used as the photochromic compound. For example, the compound of the present invention can be used as various recording materials, for example, various memory materials, copying materials, printing photosensitive materials, cathode ray tube recording materials, laser photosensitive materials and holographic photosensitive materials instead of the conventional silver salt photosensitive materials. Furthermore, the photochromic material comprising the compound of the present invention can be used as a photochromic lens material, an optical filter material, a display material, an actinometer material and a decorative material. For example, when the material is used for a photochromic lens, any method can be used without any particular limitation, so far as a uniform dimming performance is obtained. For example, there can be adopted in which a homogeneous dispersion of the compound of the present invention in a polymer film is sandwiched in a lens, and a method in which the compound of the present invention is dissolved in, for example, a silicone oil, the surface of a lens is impregnated with the solution at 150 to 200°C over a period of 10 to 60 minutes and the impregnated surface is covered with a hardenable substance to form a photochromic lens. Furthermore, there can be considered a method in which the above-mentioned polymer film is coated on the surface of a lens and the surface is covered with a hardenable substance to form a photochromic lens.

A photochromic material which is densely colored at a temperature close to normal temperature under irradiation with sunlight is preferably used for the photochromic lens. A compound of general formula (I) in which



5 represents a divalent group derived from a naphthalene ring, a phenanthrene ring, a pyridine ring or a quinoline ring is especially preferably used for the photochromic lens.

The compound of general formula (I) according to the present invention generally shows a colorless state stably in a polymeric solid matrix substantially irrespectively of the kind of the matrix, but if the compound is irradiated with ultraviolet rays, the compound is immediately colored, and when the irradiation is stopped, the compound is rendered colorless at a high color fading speed in the order of seconds, and
10 the compound of the present invention is characterized in that this coloration-fading can be repeated with a good durability.

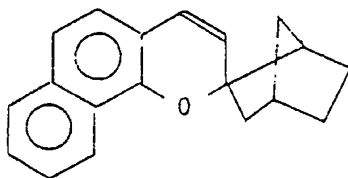
The present invention will now be described in detail with reference to the following examples that by no means limit the scope of the invention.

15

Example 1

A solution was prepared by dissolving 10 g (0.054 mole) of 1-hydroxy-2-acetonaphthone, 6.6 g (0.06 mole) of norcamphor and 8 g (0.113 mole) of pyrrolidine in 300 cc of toluene. The solution was boiled for
20 10 hours and water was separated. After termination of the reaction, toluene was removed under reduced pressure, and the remaining chromanone compound was crystallized with acetone. Then, the chromanone compound was dissolved in 200 cc of methanol, and sodium boron hydride was gradually added to the solution to form a chromanol compound. Then, 7.47 g of the chromanol compound was heated at 150 to 160 °C together with 4.5 g of anhydrous copper sulfate in a carbon dioxide current for 10 minutes and the
25 obtained viscous liquid was purified by the chromatography on silica gel to obtain 6.3 g of a chromene compound of the following formula:

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(1)

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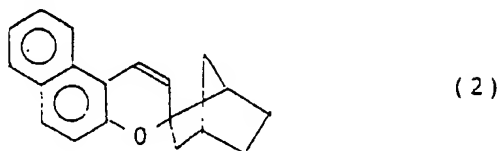
The elementary analysis values of the obtained compound were 86.93% for C, 6.89% for H and 6.18% for O, which were well in agreement with the theoretical values of $C_{19}H_{18}O$, that is, 87.02% for C, 6.87% for H and 6.12% for O. When the proton nuclear magnetic resonance spectrum (Fig. 1) was measured, it was
40 found that a peak of 6H attributed to the proton of the naphthalene ring appeared in the vicinity of δ 7.2 to 8.3 ppm, a peak of 2H attributed to the proton of the alkene appeared in the vicinity of δ 5.6 to 6.7 ppm and a broad peak of 10H attributed to the proton of the norbornylidene group appeared in the vicinity of δ 1.2 to 2.5 ppm. When the ^{13}C -nuclear magnetic resonance spectrum was measured, it was found that a peak attributed to the carbon of the norbornylidene group appeared in the vicinity of δ 27 to 52 ppm, a peak
45 attributed to the carbon of the naphthalene ring appeared in the vicinity of δ 110 to 160 ppm and a peak attributed to the carbon of the alkene appeared in the vicinity of δ 80 to 110 ppm. From the foregoing results, it was confirmed that the isolated product is the compound represented by the above-mentioned structural formula (1).

50

Example 2

A solution was prepared by dissolving 10 g (0.054 mole) of 1-acetyl-2-naphthol, 6.6 g (0.06 mole) of norcamphor and 8.7 g (0.10 mole) of morpholine in 300 cc of toluene, and the solution was boiled for 5
55 hours and water was separated. After termination of the reaction, toluene was removed under reduced pressure, and the remaining chromanone compound was recrystallized from acetone, and the chromanone compound was dissolved in 200 cc of methanol and lithium aluminum hydride was added to the solution to form a chromanol compound. Then, 6.49 g of this chromanol compound was heated at 170 to 180 °C

together with anhydrous copper sulfate in a carbon dioxide current for 10 minutes and the obtained brown viscous liquid was purified by the chromatography on silica gel to obtain 5.1 g of a chromene compound represented by the following formula:

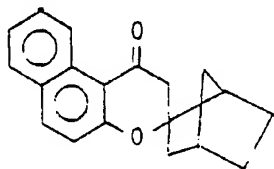


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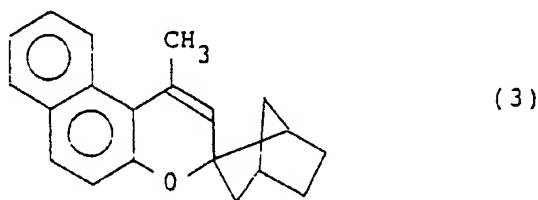
The elementary analysis values of this compound were 86.86% for C, 6.91% for H and 6.22% for O, which were well in agreement with the theoretical values of $C_{19}H_{13}O$, that is, 87.02% for C, 6.87% for H and 6.12% for O. When the proton nuclear magnetic resonance spectrum was measured, it was found that a peak of 6H attributed to the proton of the naphthalene ring appeared in the vicinity of δ 7.2 to 8.3 ppm, a peak of 2H attributed to the proton of the alkene appeared in the vicinity of δ 6.0 to 7.0 ppm and a broad peak of 10H attributed to the proton of the norbornylidene group appeared in the vicinity of δ 1.2 to 2.5 ppm. When the ^{13}C -nuclear magnetic resonance spectrum was measured, it was found that a peak attributed to the carbon of the norbornylidene group appeared in the vicinity of δ 27 to 52 ppm, a peak attributed to the carbon atom of the naphthalene ring appeared in the vicinity of δ 110 to 160 ppm and a peak attributed to the carbon atom of the alkene appeared in the vicinity of δ 90 to 110 ppm. From the foregoing results, it was confirmed that the isolated product is the compound represented by the above-mentioned structural formula (2).

25 Example 3

In 50 cc of anhydrous ether was dissolved 2.78 g (0.01 mole) of the chromanone compound obtained in Example 2, represented by the following formula:



and the solution was cooled to 0° C and 0.012 mole of Grignard reagent CH_3MgI newly prepared in 50 cc of anhydrous ether was dropped into the solution over a period of about 1 hour. After termination of the dropwise addition, the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 hours and was gradually poured into cold water to extract the product with ether. The ether extract was dried on magnesium sulfate and ether was removed under reduced pressure to form a chromanol compound from the chromanone compound. Then, the obtained chromanol compound was heated at 200° C together with anhydrous copper sulfate in a carbon dioxide current for about 10 minutes, and the obtained brown viscous liquid was purified by the chromatography on silica gel to obtain 2.24 g of a chromene compound represented by the following formula:

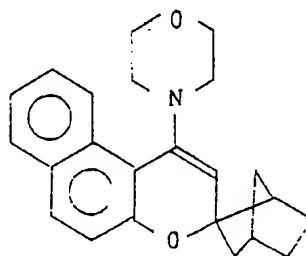


The elementary analysis, proton nuclear magnetic resonance measurement and ^{13}C -nuclear magnetic

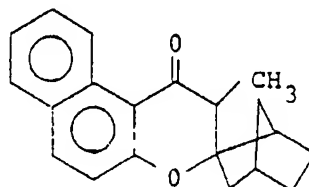
resonance spectrum measurement were carried out in the same manner as described in Example 2. From the obtained results, it was confirmed that the obtained compound is the compound represented by the above-mentioned structural formula (3). The elementary analysis values of this compound and the theoretical values calculated from the composition of the compound (3) are shown in Table 2.

Example 4

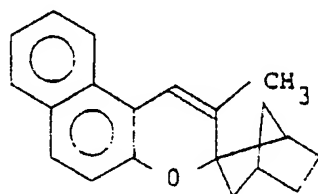
In 300 cc of toluene were dissolved 10 g (0.054 mole) of 1-acetyl-2-naphthol, 6.6 g (0.06 mole) of norcamphor and 8.7 g (0.10 mole) of morpholine, and solution was boiled for 15 hours and water was separated. After termination of the reaction, toluene was removed under reduced pressure and the remaining product was recrystallized from acetone to obtain 7.53 g of a compound represented by the following formula:



Then, 7.53 g of this compound was dissolved in 100 cc of methanol and reacted with methyl iodide to obtain 6.95 g of a chromanone compound represented by the following formula:



Then, the so-obtained chromanone compound was converted to a chromanol compound in the same manner as described in Example 2, and the dehydration reaction was carried out. Then, the separation and purification were carried out to obtain a 5.84 g of a chromene compound represented by the following formula:



(4)

The elementary analysis, proton nuclear magnetic resonance measurement and ^{13}C -nuclear magnetic resonance spectrum measurement were carried out in the same manner as described in Example 2. From the obtained results, it was confirmed that the obtained compound is the compound represented by the above-mentioned structural formula (4). The elementary analysis values of the obtained compound and the theoretical values calculated from the composition of the compound (4) are shown in Table 2.

Examples 5 through 30

Various chromene compounds were prepared from starting compounds shown in Table 1 in the same manner as described in Examples 1 through 4. Namely, in Table 1, in Examples 5 through 9, the reaction
5 was carried out in the same manner as described in Example 4, and in Examples 10 through 25, the reaction was carried out in the same manner as described in Example 1. In Examples 26 through 30, the reaction was carried out in the same manner as described in Example 3 or 4.

The structures of the obtained compounds were analyzed by the same structure-confirming means as adopted in Example 1. It was confirmed that the obtained compounds are compounds represented by
10 structural formula shown in Table 1.

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Table 1

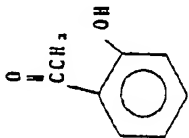
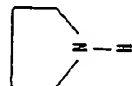
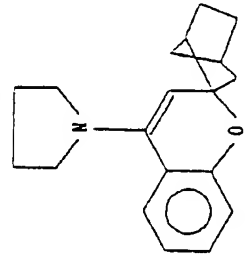
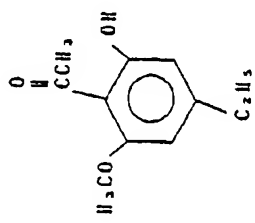

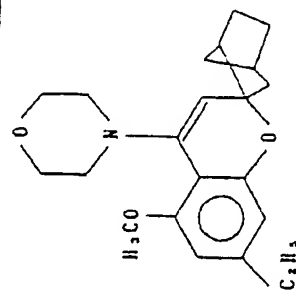
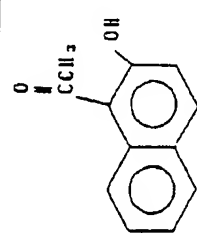
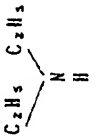
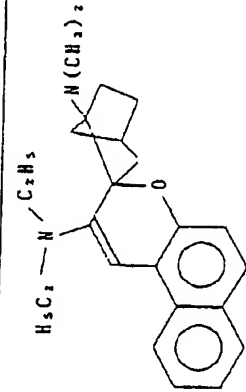
Example No.	Starting Compounds	Condensing agent	Products	Yield (%)
5				41
6				38
7				46

Table 1 (continued)

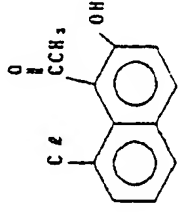

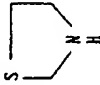
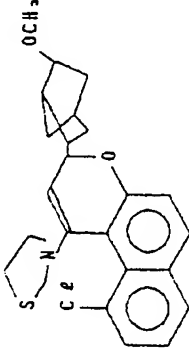
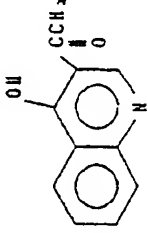

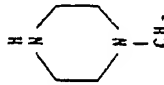
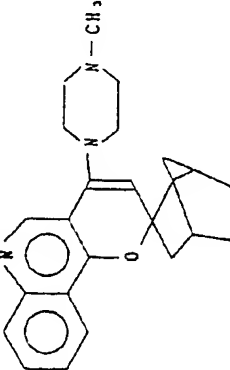
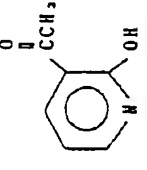


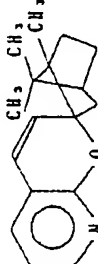
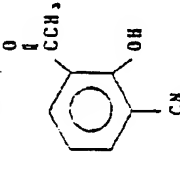

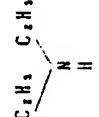
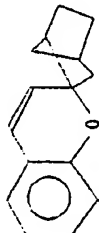
Example No.	Starting Compounds	Condensing agent	Products	Yield (%)
8	 			40
9	 			36
10	 			43
11	 			36

Table 1 (continued)

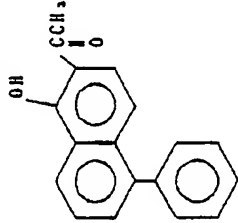

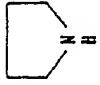
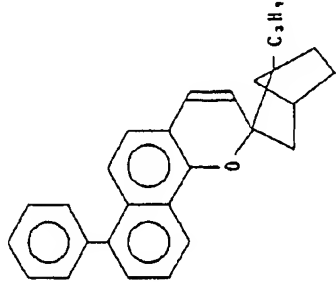
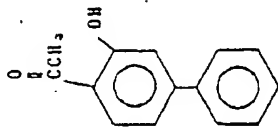
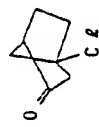
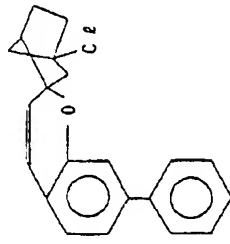
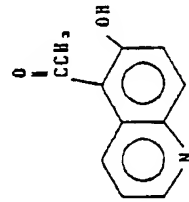

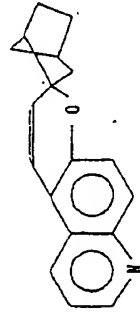
Example No.	Starting Compounds	Condensing agent	Products	Yield (%)
12	 			39
13	 			29
14	 	pyrrolidine		40

Table 1 (continued)

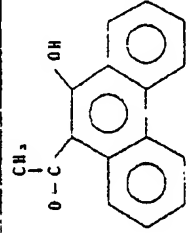
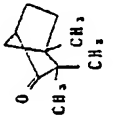
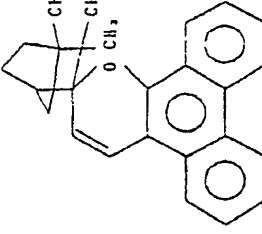
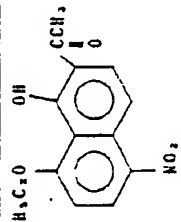
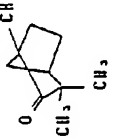
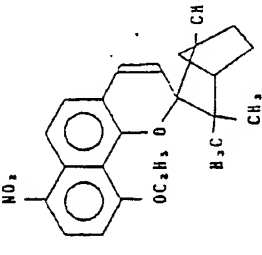
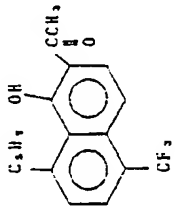
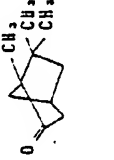
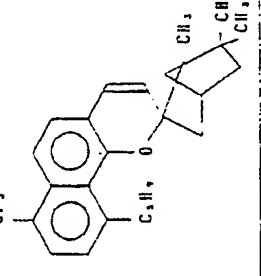
Example No.	Starting Compounds	Condensing agent	Products	Yield (%)
15				39
16				30
17				42

Table 1 (continued)

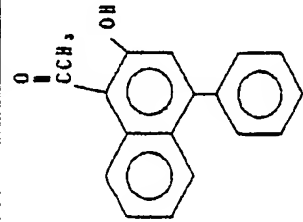
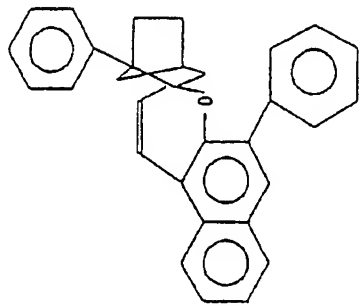
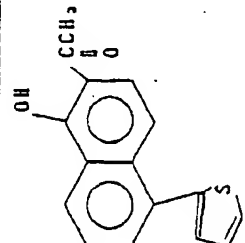
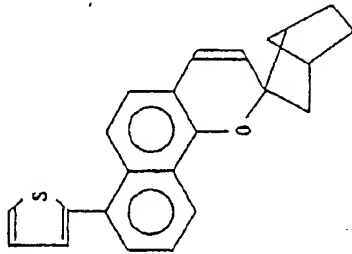
Example No.	Starting Compounds	Condensing Agent	Products	Yield (%)
18		pyrrolidine		40
19				42

Table 1 (continued)

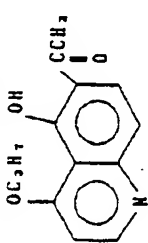

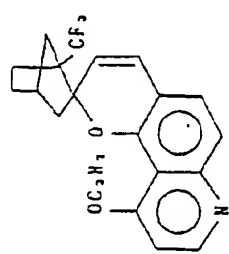
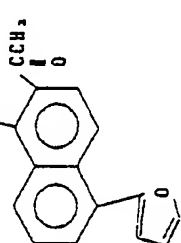

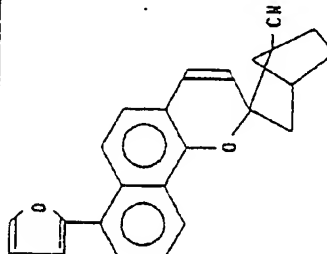
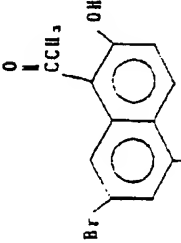

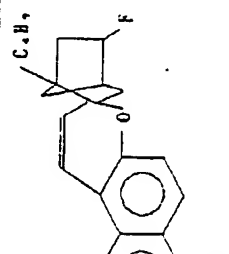
Example No.	Starting Compounds		Condensing agent	Products	Yield (%)
20			pyrrolidine		40
21					43
22					41

Table 1 (continued)

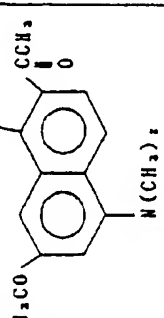
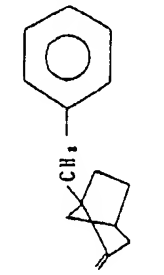
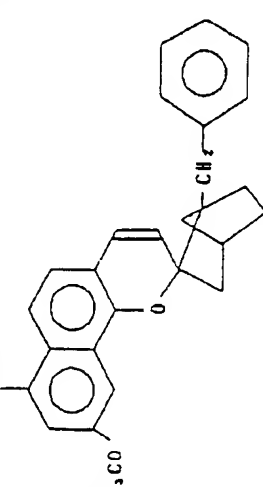
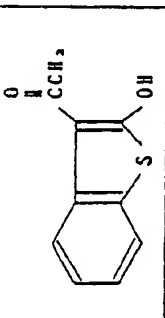
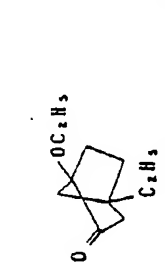
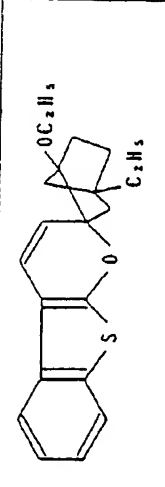
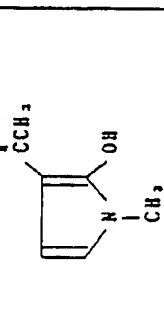
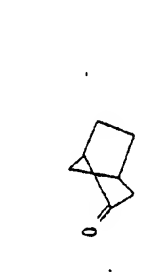
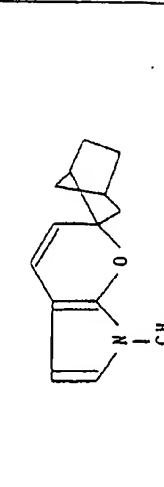
Example No.	Starting Compounds		Condensing agent	Products	Yield (%)
23			pyrrolidine		36
24			"		34
25			"		38

Table 1 (continued)

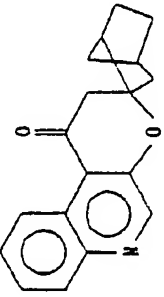
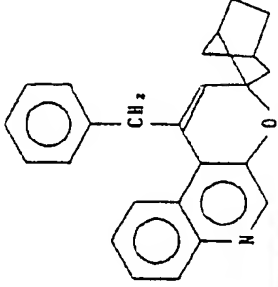
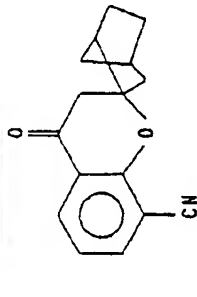
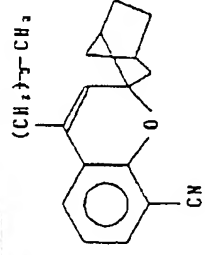
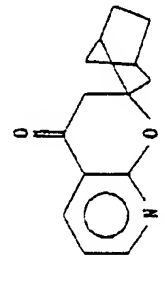
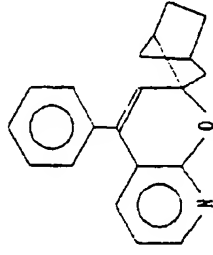
Example No.	Starting Compounds	Products	Yield (%)
26			62
27			65
28			70

Table 1 (continued)

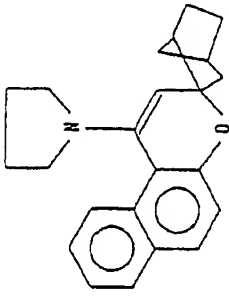
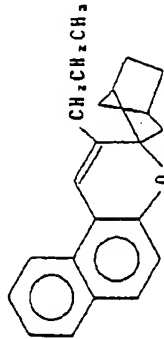
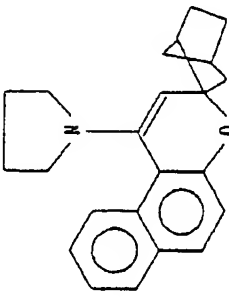
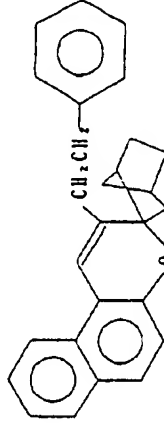
Example No.	Starting Compounds	Products	Yield (%)
29	 <chem>CH3CH2CH2Br</chem>	 <chem>CH2CH2CH2</chem>	64
30	 <chem>CH2CH2CH2Br</chem>	 <chem>CH2CH2CH2Br</chem>	64

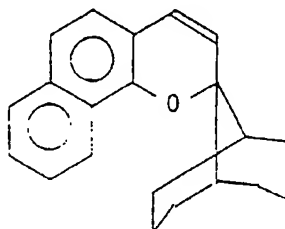
Table 2

Compound No.	Elementary Analysis Values (%)					Theoretical Values (%)				
	C	H	N	O	others	C	H	N	O	others
1	86.93	6.89	-	6.18	-	87.02	6.87	-	6.12	-
2	86.86	6.91	-	6.22	-	87.02	6.87	-	6.12	-
3	86.86	7.27	-	5.87	-	86.96	7.25	-	5.80	-
4	86.90	7.29	-	5.81	-	86.96	7.25	-	5.80	-
5	81.10	8.21	5.01	5.68	-	81.14	8.19	4.98	5.69	-
6	77.90	8.49	4.16	9.45	-	77.88	8.55	4.13	9.44	-
7	79.83	8.52	7.42	4.23	-	79.79	8.51	7.45	4.26	-
8	66.69	5.83	3.30	7.69	S 7.76 Cl 8.73	66.75	5.80	3.38	7.74	S 7.74 Cl 8.59
9	76.21	7.56	11.69	4.54	-	76.45	7.48	11.63	4.43	-
10	80.20	8.19	5.52	6.09	-	80.00	8.24	5.49	6.27	-
11	80.90	6.38	5.94	6.78	-	81.01	6.33	5.91	6.75	-
12	88.04	7.83	-	4.13	-	87.96	7.85	-	4.19	-
13	78.21	5.84	-	4.89	Cl 11.06	78.14	5.89	-	4.96	Cl 11.00
14	82.11	6.54	5.30	6.05	-	82.13	6.46	5.32	6.08	-
15	88.10	7.38	-	4.52	-	88.14	7.34	-	4.52	-
16	73.35	6.80	3.52	16.33	-	73.28	6.87	3.56	16.28	-
17	76.41	7.01	-	3.70	F 12.88	76.36	7.05	-	3.64	F 12.95
18	89.80	6.29	-	3.91	-	89.86	6.28	-	3.86	-
19	80.19	5.84	-	4.61	S 9.36	80.23	5.81	-	4.65	S 9.30
20	67.81	5.72	3.64	8.17	F 14.66	67.87	5.66	3.60	8.23	F 14.65
21	81.43	5.39	3.92	9.26	-	81.59	5.38	3.97	9.07	-
22	56.61	4.69	-	9.47	F 5.64 Br 23.59	56.65	4.72	-	9.44	F 5.61 Br 23.57
23	81.32	7.56	3.42	7.70	-	81.36	7.51	3.39	7.75	-
24	73.98	7.11	-	9.48	S 9.43	74.12	7.06	-	9.41	S 9.41
25	78.17	7.94	6.56	7.33	-	78.14	7.91	6.51	7.44	-
26	85.04	6.49	3.94	4.53	-	84.99	6.52	3.97	4.53	-
27	81.81	7.46	4.76	5.97	-	81.91	7.85	4.78	5.46	-
28	83.42	6.52	4.79	5.27	-	83.04	6.57	4.84	5.54	-
29	86.79	7.93	-	5.28	-	86.84	7.89	-	5.26	-
30	88.43	7.14	-	4.43	-	88.52	7.10	-	4.37	-

Example 31

5 A solution was prepared by dissolving 10 g (0.054 mole) of 1-hydroxy-2-acetonaphthone, 8.29 g (0.06 mole) of bicyclo[3,3,1]nonan-9-one and 8 g (0.113 mole) of pyrrolidine in 300 cc of toluene, and the solution was boiled for 10 hours and water was separated. After termination of the reaction, toluene was removed under reduced pressure, and the remaining chromanone compound was crystallized with acetone. Then, the
 10 chromanone compound was dissolved in 200 cc of methanol and sodium boron hydride was gradually added to the solution to form a chromanol compound. Then 7.47 g of this chromanol compound was heated at 150 to 160 °C together with 4.5 g of anhydrous copper sulfate in a carbon dioxide current for 10 minutes, and the obtained brown viscous liquid was purified by the chromatography on silica gel to obtain 6.9 g of a chromene compound represented by the following formula:

15



(31)

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25

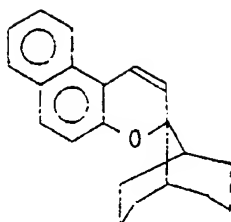
The elementary analysis values of the compound were 86.78% for C, 7.64% for H and 5.58% for O, which were well in agreement with the theoretical values of $C_{21}H_{22}O$, that is, 86.90% for C, 7.59% for H and 5.52% for O. When the proton nucleus magnetic resonance spectrum (Fig. 2) was measured, it was found that a peak of 6H attributed to the proton of the naphthalene ring appeared in the vicinity of δ 7.2 to 8.3
 30 ppm, a peak of 2H attributed to the proton of the alkene appeared in the vicinity of δ 5.6 to 6.7 ppm and a broad peak of 14H attributed to the proton of the bicyclo[3,3,1]9-nonylidene group appeared in the vicinity of δ 1.2 to 2.5 ppm. When the ^{13}C -nuclear magnetic resonance spectrum was measured, it was found that a peak attributed to the carbon of the bicyclo(3,3,1)9-nonylidene group appeared in the vicinity of δ 25 to 55 ppm, a peak attributed to the carbon of the naphthalene ring appeared in the vicinity of δ 110 to 160 ppm and a peak attributed to the carbon of the alkene appeared in the vicinity of δ 80 to 110 ppm. From the foregoing results, it was confirmed that the isolated product is the compound represented by the above-mentioned structural formula (31).
 35

40 Example 32

A solution was prepared by dissolving 10 g (0.054 mole) of 1-acetyl-2-naphthol, 8.29 g (0.06 mole) of bicyclo[3,3,1]nonan-9-one and 8.7 g (0.10 mole) of morpholine in 300 cc of toluene, and the solution was boiled for 5 hours and water was separated. After termination of the reaction, toluene was removed under
 45 reduced pressure and the remaining chromanone compound was recrystallized from acetone. Then, the chromanone compound was dissolved in 200 cc of methanol and lithium aluminum hydride was added to the solution to form a chromanol compound. Then, 6.49 g of this chromanol compound was heated at 170 to 180 °C together with anhydrous copper sulfate in a carbon dioxide current for 10 minutes, and the obtained brown viscous liquid was purified by the chromatography on silica gel to obtain 5.8 g of a chromene compound represented by the following formula:

50

55



(32)

5

10

The elementary analysis values of the obtained compound were 86.81% for C, 7.62% for H and 5.57% for O, which were well in agreement with the theoretical values of $C_{22}H_{22}O$, that is, 86.90% for C, 7.59% for H and 5.52% for O. When the proton nuclear magnetic resonance spectrum was measured, it was found that a peak of 6H attributed to the proton of the naphthalene ring appeared in the vicinity of δ 7.2 to 8.3 ppm, a peak of 2H attributed to the proton of the alkene appeared in the vicinity of δ 6.0 to 7.0 ppm and a broad peak of 14H attributed to the proton of the bicyclo(3,3,1)nonylidene group appeared in the vicinity of δ 1.2 to 2.5 ppm. When the ^{13}C -nuclear magnetic resonance spectrum was measured, it was found that a peak attributed to the carbon of the bicyclo(3,3,1)nonylidene group appeared in the vicinity of δ 27 to 55 ppm, a peak attributed to the carbon of the naphthalene ring appeared in the vicinity of δ 110 to 160 ppm and a peak attributed to the carbon of the alkene appeared in the vicinity of δ 80 to 110 ppm. From the foregoing results, it was confirmed that the isolated product is the compound represented by the structural formula (32).

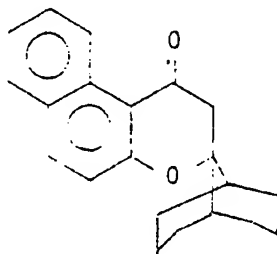
20

25

Example 33

In 50 cc of anhydrous ether was dissolved 3.06 g (0.01 mole) of the chromanone compound obtained in Example 32, represented by the following formula:

30



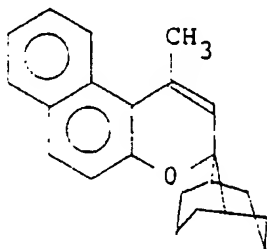
35

40

and the solution was cooled to $0^{\circ}C$ and Grignard reagent CH_3MgI (0.012 mole) newly prepared in 50 cc of anhydrous ether was dropped into the solution over a period of about 1 hour. After termination of the dropwise addition, the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 hours and quietly poured into cold water to extract the product with ether. The ether extract was dried on magnesium sulfate to form a chromanol compound from the chromanone compound. Then, the chromanol compound was heated at $200^{\circ}C$ together with anhydrous copper sulfate in a carbon dioxide current for about 10 minutes. The obtained brown viscous liquid was purified by the chromatography on silica gel to obtain 2.47 g of a chromene compound represented by the following formula:

45

50



(33)

55

The elementary analysis, proton nuclear magnetic resonance spectrum measurement and ^{13}C -nuclear magnetic resonance spectrum measurement were carried out in the same manner as described in Example 32. From the obtained results, it was confirmed that the obtained compound is the compound represented by the above-mentioned structural formula (33). The elementary analysis values of the obtained compound and the theoretical values calculated from the composition of the compound (33) are shown in Table 4.

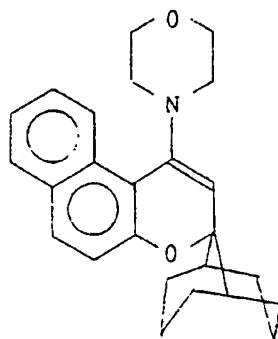
Example 34

In 300 cc of toluene were dissolved 10 g (0.054 mole) of 1-acetyl-2-naphthol, 8.29 g (0.06 mole) of bicyclo(3,3,1)nonan-9-one and 8.7 g (0.10 mole) of morpholine, and the solution was boiled for 15 hours and water was separated. After termination of the reaction, toluene was removed under reduced pressure, and the remaining product was recrystallized from acetone to obtain 8.48 g of a compound represented by the following formula:

15

20

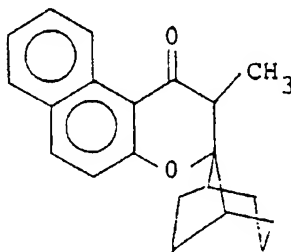
25



Then, 8.48 g of this compound was dissolved in 100 cc of methanol and reacted with methyl iodide to obtain 7.83 g of a chromanone compound represented by the following formula:

35

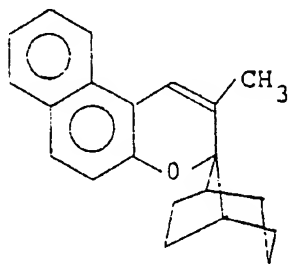
40



In the same manner as described in Example 32, the formed chromanone compound was converted to a chromanol compound, and the dehydration reaction, separation and purification were carried out to obtain 6.58 g of a chromene compound represented by the following formula:

50

55



(34)

The elementary analysis, proton nuclear magnetic resonance spectrum measurement and ^{13}C -nuclear magnetic resonance spectrum measurement were carried out in the same manner as described in Example 32. From the obtained results, it was confirmed that the obtained compound is the compound represented by the above-mentioned structural formula (34). The elementary analysis values of the obtained compound and the theoretical values calculated from the composition of the compound (34) are shown in Table 4.

Examples 35 through 60

Various chromene compounds were synthesized from starting compounds shown in Table 3 in the same manner as described in Examples 31 through 34. Namely, in Table 3, in Examples 35 through 39, the reaction was carried out in the same manner as described in Example 34 and in Examples 40 through 55, the reaction was carried out in the same manner as described in Example 31. In Examples 56 through 60, the reaction was carried out in the same manner as described in Example 33 or 34.

The structures of the obtained products were analyzed by the same structure-confirming means as adopted in Example 31. From the obtained results, it was confirmed that the obtained products are compounds represented by the structural formulae shown in Table 3. The elementary analysis values of the obtained compounds and the theoretical values calculated from the structural formulae of the compounds are shown in Table 4.

Table 3

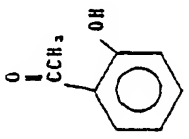

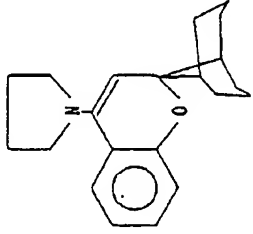
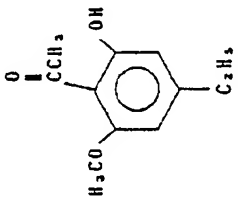

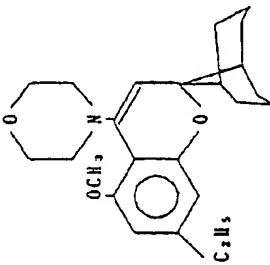
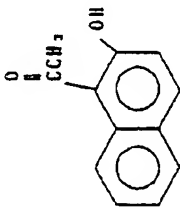
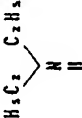
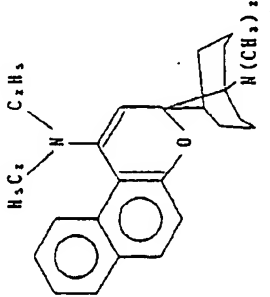
Example No.	Starting Compounds	Condensing Agent	Products	Yield(%)
35				39
36				42
37				44

Table 3 (continued)

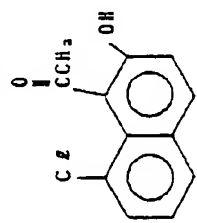

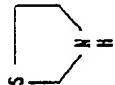
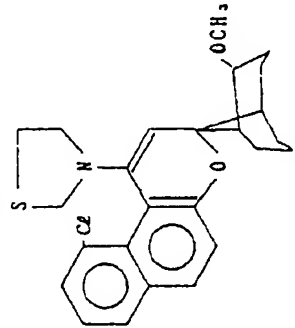
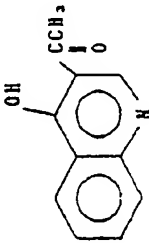
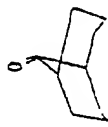
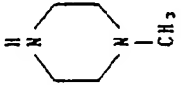
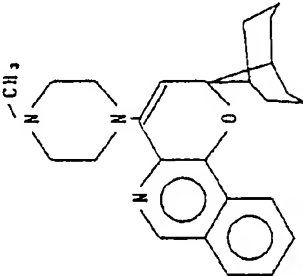
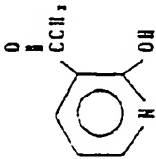
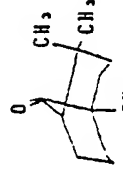
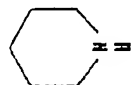
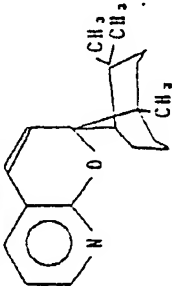
Example No.	Starting Compounds		Condensing agent	Products	Yield (%)
38					39
39					39
40					42

Table 3 (continued)

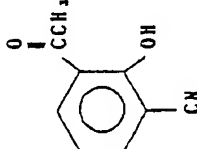
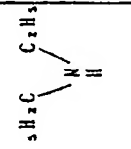
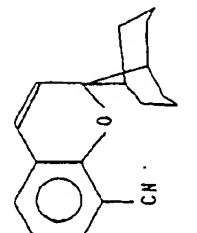
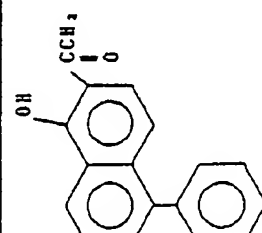
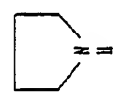
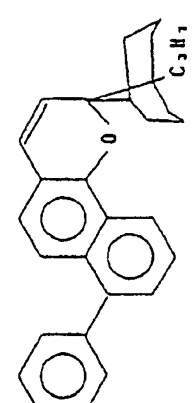
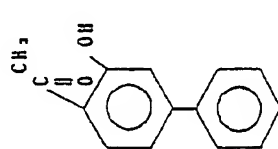
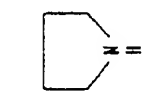
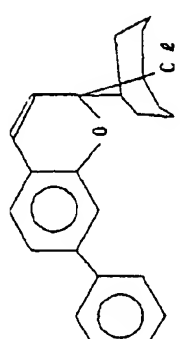
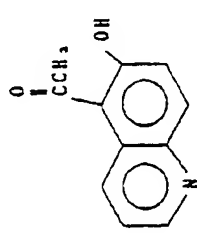
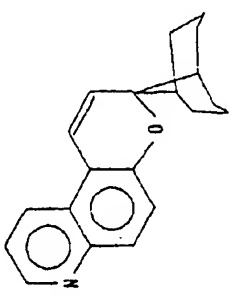
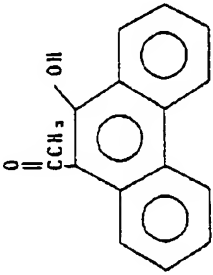
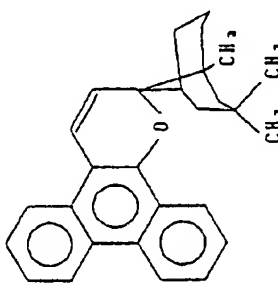
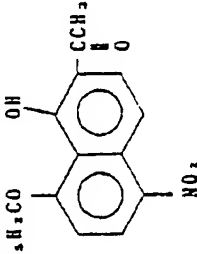
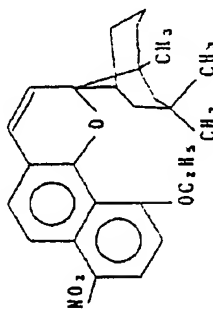
Example No.	Starting Compounds	Condensing agent	Products	Yield (%)
41				38
42				40
43				31

Table 3 (continued)

Example No.	Starting Compounds	Condensing agent	Products	Yield (%)
44		pyrrolidine		39
45		pyrrolidine		40
46				31

5
10
15
20
25
30
35
40
45
50
55

Example No.	Starting Compounds	Condensing Agent	Products	Yield (%)
47		pyrrolidine		44
48				41
49				40

Table 3 (continued)

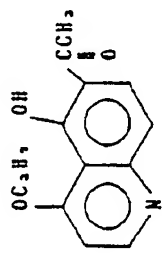
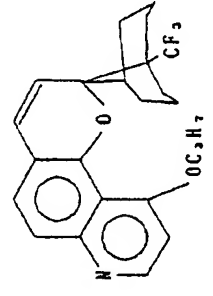
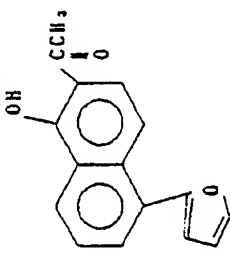
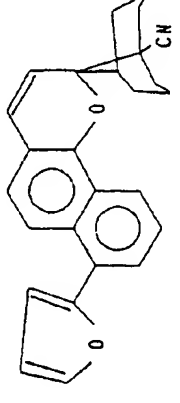
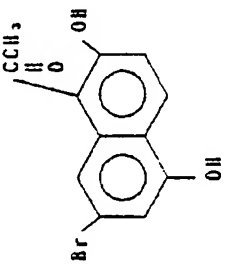
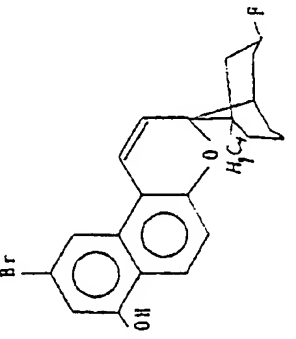
Example No.	Starting Compounds	Condensing Agent	Products	Yield (%)
50		pyrrolidine		38
51		"		41
52		"		38

Table 3 (continued)

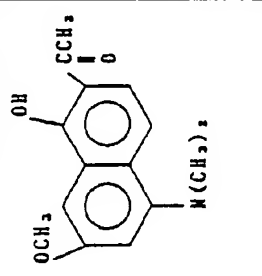
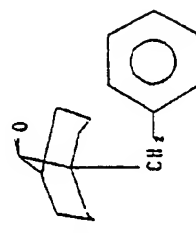
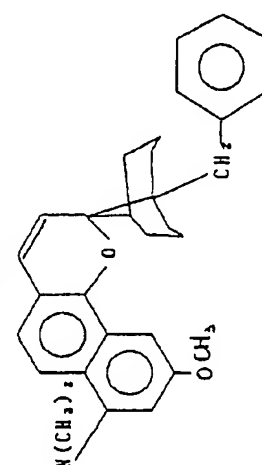

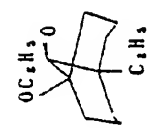
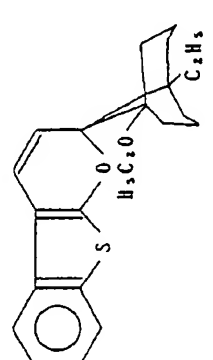
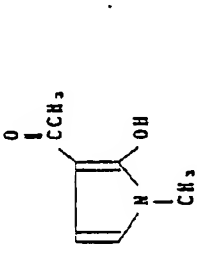

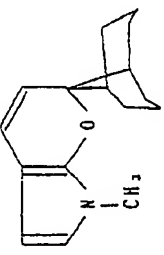
Example No	Starting Compounds		Condensing agent	Products	Yield(%)
53			pyrrolidine		34
54			~		36
55			~		37

Table 3 (continued)

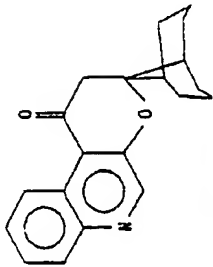
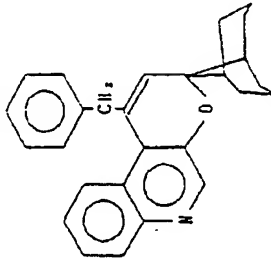
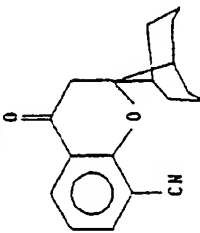
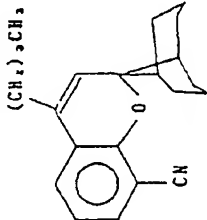
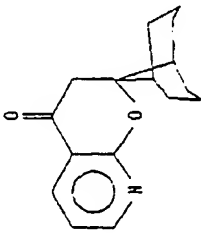
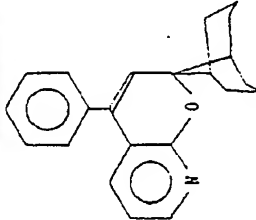
Example No.	Starting Compounds	Products	Yield (%)
56			65
57			69
58			64

Table 3 (continued)

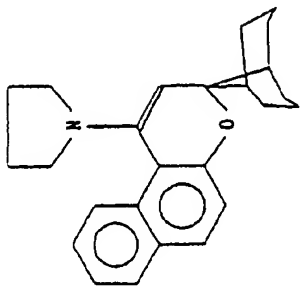
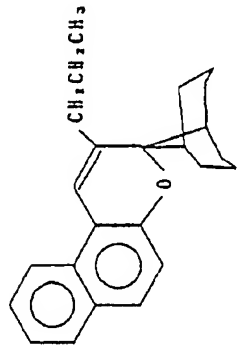
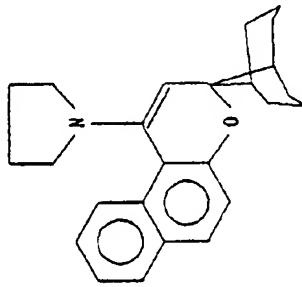
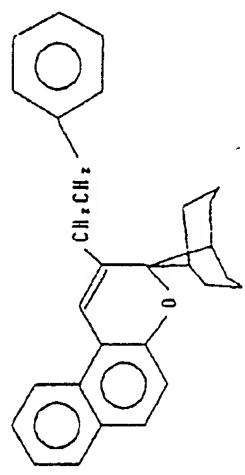
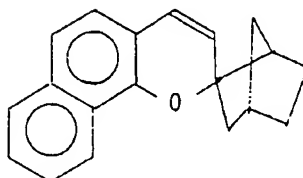
Example No.	Starting Compounds	Products	Yield (%)
59			66
60			64

Table 4

Compound No.	Elementary Analysis Values (%)											
	Theoretical Values (%)						Found Values (%)					
	C	H	N	O	S	others	C	H	N	O	S	others
31	86.90	7.59	-	5.52	-	-	86.78	7.64	-	5.58	-	-
32	86.90	7.59	-	5.52	-	-	86.81	7.62	-	5.57	-	-
33	86.80	7.95	-	5.26	-	-	86.77	7.96	-	5.27	-	-
34	86.80	7.95	-	5.26	-	-	86.79	7.98	-	5.23	-	-
35	81.51	8.80	4.53	5.17	-	-	81.48	8.75	4.58	5.19	-	-
36	75.35	8.43	3.66	12.55	-	-	75.38	8.39	3.68	12.55	-	-
37	80.15	8.97	6.92	3.95	-	-	80.13	8.99	6.94	3.94	-	-
38	67.93	6.39	3.17	7.24	7.25	Ct 8.02	67.88	6.42	3.15	7.19	7.22	Ct 8.14
39	77.08	8.02	10.79	4.11	-	-	77.04	8.04	10.83	4.09	-	-
40	80.52	8.89	4.94	5.65	-	-	80.49	8.92	4.96	5.63	-	-
41	81.47	7.22	5.28	6.03	-	-	81.44	7.26	5.25	6.05	-	-
42	88.19	7.90	-	3.92	-	-	88.22	7.88	-	3.90	-	-
43	78.73	6.61	-	4.56	-	Ct 10.10	78.68	6.64	-	4.53	-	Ct 10.15
44	82.44	7.26	4.81	5.49	-	-	82.42	7.28	4.83	5.47	-	-
45	87.91	7.91	-	4.18	-	-	87.93	7.93	-	4.14	-	-
46	73.73	7.85	3.31	15.11	-	-	73.69	7.88	3.26	15.17	-	-
47	76.29	7.73	-	3.50	-	F 12.48	76.28	7.71	-	3.49	-	F 12.95
48	89.55	6.83	-	3.62	-	-	89.54	6.84	-	3.62	-	-
49	79.32	7.99	-	4.22	8.47	-	79.27	8.02	-	4.20	8.51	-
50	68.88	6.50	3.35	7.64	-	F 13.63	68.84	6.47	3.33	7.67	-	F 13.69
51	79.97	6.72	4.05	9.26	-	-	79.94	6.76	4.06	9.24	-	-
52	63.43	5.95	2.96	6.76	-	F 4.01	63.37	5.97	2.98	6.74	-	F 4.03
						Br 16.88						Br 16.91
53	81.90	7.98	3.08	7.04	-	-	81.86	7.97	3.06	7.11	-	-
54	75.58	6.89	-	8.75	8.78	-	75.54	6.88	-	8.77	8.81	-
55	77.88	9.15	6.05	6.92	-	-	77.90	9.17	6.03	6.90	-	-
56	85.00	7.13	3.67	4.19	-	-	85.03	7.11	3.69	4.17	-	-
57	82.20	8.46	4.36	4.98	-	-	82.17	8.48	4.34	5.01	-	-
58	83.24	7.31	4.41	5.04	-	-	83.17	7.33	4.43	5.07	-	-
59	86.70	8.49	-	4.81	-	-	86.72	8.51	-	4.77	-	-
60	88.28	7.66	-	4.06	-	-	88.31	7.67	-	4.02	-	-

Example 61

The compound synthesized in Example 1, which was represented by the following formula:



was dissolved and dispersed in polymethyl methacrylate with the aid of benzene, and a cast film was formed on a slide glass sheet (11.2 cm x 3.7 cm) so that the concentration of the compound in the film was 1.0×10^{-4} mole/g and the thickness of the film was 0.1 mm. The photochromic film was irradiated with rays of mercury lamp (SHL-100 supplied by Toshiba) located 10 cm apart from the film at $25^\circ\text{C} \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ for 60 seconds to effect coloration in the film, and the photochromic characteristics were examined with respect to items described below. The obtain results are shown in Table 5. Maximum absorption wavelength (λ_{max}):

The maximum absorption wavelength λ_{max} of the colored film was determined by using a spectrophotometer (220A supplied by Hitachi).

ϵ (60 seconds):

After 60 seconds' irradiation under the above-mentioned conditions, the absorbance at the maximum absorption wavelength was measured.

ϵ (0 second):

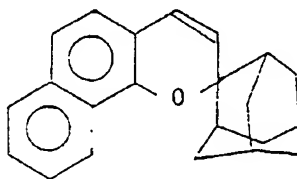
The absorbance at the maximum absorption wavelength of the unirradiated film was measured.

Half-value period $t^{1/2}$:

After 60 second's irradiation, the time required for reduction of the absorbance of the film to 1:2 of [ϵ (60 seconds) - ϵ (0 second)] was measured.

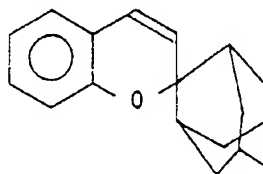
Example 62 through 120

The photochromic characteristics of the compounds prepared in Examples 2 through 60 were measured in the same manner as described in Example 61. The obtained results are shown in Table 5. For comparison, films were similarly prepared by using spiroadamantane compounds represented by the following formulae (61) and (62) and the photochromic characteristics were similarly measured:



(61)

and



(62)

Table 5

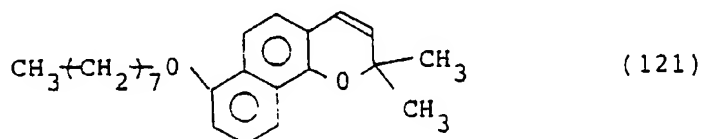
	Example No.	Compound No.	Color	ϵ (60 seconds) - ϵ (0 seconds)	λ_{\max} (nm)	$t_{1/2}$ (seconds)
5	61	1	yellow	0.8	448	62
	62	2	yellow	0.6	401	21
10	63	3	yellow	0.4	450	15
	64	4	yellow	0.5	450	18
	65	5	orange	0.4	480	62
	66	6	orange	0.5	480	60
15	67	7	yellow	0.7	405	90
	68	8	yellow	0.6	410	70
	69	9	yellow	1.0	440	90
20	70	10	yellow	0.8	450	18
	71	11	orange	0.6	478	52
	72	12	yellow	0.9	440	60
25	73	13	orange	0.4	470	53
	74	14	yellow	0.9	436	70
	75	15	yellow	0.8	456	70
	76	16	red	0.9	490	60
30	77	17	yellow	0.9	450	60
	78	18	orange	0.9	460	40
	79	19	red	0.9	490	60
35	80	20	orange	0.7	470	30
	81	21	red	0.9	500	55
	82	22	yellow	0.7	430	40
40	83	23	red	0.8	490	50
	84	24	yellow	0.7	450	60
	85	25	orange	0.8	470	29
	86	26	yellow	0.3	401	12
45	87	27	orange	0.2	490	10
	88	28	orange	0.3	480	15
	89	29	yellow	0.3	410	10
50	90	30	yellow	.03	410	13

Table 5 (continued)

	Example No.	Compound No.	Color	ϵ (60 seconds) - ϵ (0 seconds)	λ_{\max} (nm)	$\tau_{1/2}$ (seconds)
5	91	31	yellow	1.0	448	120
	92	32	yellow	0.8	400	60
10	93	33	yellow	0.6	450	40
	94	34	yellow	0.7	450	40
	95	35	orange	0.6	480	120
	96	36	orange	0.7	480	120
15	97	37	yellow	0.9	405	180
	98	38	yellow	0.8	410	135
	99	39	yellow	1.2	440	175
20	100	40	yellow	0.9	450	39
	101	41	orange	0.7	478	106
	102	42	yellow	1.0	440	118
25	103	43	orange	0.6	470	113
	104	44	yellow	1.0	436	140
	105	45	yellow	1.0	456	135
	106	46	red	1.1	490	120
30	107	47	yellow	1.0	450	116
	108	48	orange	1.0	460	82
	109	49	red	1.1	490	120
35	110	50	orange	0.9	470	60
	111	51	red	1.0	500	110
	112	52	yellow	0.9	430	78
40	113	53	red	1.0	490	106
	114	54	yellow	0.8	450	119
	115	55	orange	1.0	470	59
	116	56	yellow	0.5	400	26
45	117	57	orange	0.4	490	19
	118	58	orange	0.5	480	32
	119	59	yellow	0.5	410	20
50	120	60	yellow	0.5	410	28
	Comparative Example No.					
	1	61	yellow	0.9	448	240
55	2	62	not colored	-	-	-

Example 121

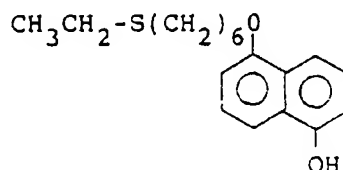
A solution was prepared by dissolving 10 g (0.0318 mole) of 5-n-octyloxy-1-hydroxy-2-acetonaphthone, 2.77 g (0.0477 mole) of acetone and 1.13 g (0.0159 mole) of pyrrolidine 100 ml of toluene, and the solution was boiled for 10 hours and water was separated. After termination of the reaction, toluene was removed under reduced pressure, and the remaining chromanone compound was dissolved in 100 ml of methanol and sodium boron hydride was gradually added to the solution to form a chromanol compound. Then, 6.0 g of the chromanol compound was heated at 150 to 160 °C together with 4.0 g of anhydrous copper sulfate in a carbon dioxide current for 10 minutes. The obtained brown viscous liquid was purified by the chromatography on silica gel to obtain 3.8 g of a chromene compound represented by the following formula:



The elementary analysis values of the obtained compound were 81.58% for C, 9.01% for H and 9.41% for O, which were well in agreement with the theoretical values of $C_{23}H_{30}O_2$, that is, 81.61% for C, 8.93% for H and 9.46% for O. When the proton nuclear magnetic resonance spectrum was measured, it was found that a broad peak of 15H attributed to the proton of the n-octyloxy group appeared in the vicinity of δ 0.6 to 2.3 ppm, a peak of 6H attributed to the proton of the methyl group bonded to the 2-position of the chromene appeared in the vicinity of δ 1.5 ppm, a triplet peak attributed to the proton of the methylene bonded to the oxygen of the n-octyloxy group appeared in the vicinity of δ 4ppm, doublet peaks of the protons bonded to the 3- and 4-positions of the chromene appeared in the vicinity of δ 5.6 ppm and in the vicinity of δ 6.4 ppm, respectively, and a peak of 5H attributed to the proton of the naphthalene ring appeared in the vicinity of δ 6.5 to 8.0 ppm. When the ^{13}C -NMR was measured, it was found that a peak attributed to the carbon of the methyl group bonded to the 2-position and a peak attributed to the carbon of the octyloxy group appeared in the vicinity of 14 to 40 ppm, a peak attributed to the carbon bonded to the oxygen of the octyloxy group appeared in the vicinity of δ 70 ppm, a peak attributed to the carbon at the 2-position of the chromene appeared in the vicinity of δ 80 ppm, a peak attributed to the carbon at the 3,4-position of the chromene and a peak attributed to the carbon on the naphthalene ring appeared in the vicinity of δ 115 to 135 ppm, and a peak attributed to the carbon on the naphthalene ring, bonded to the oxygen, appeared in the vicinity of δ 150 ppm. From the foregoing results, it was confirmed that the isolated product is the compound represented by the above-mentioned structural formula (121).

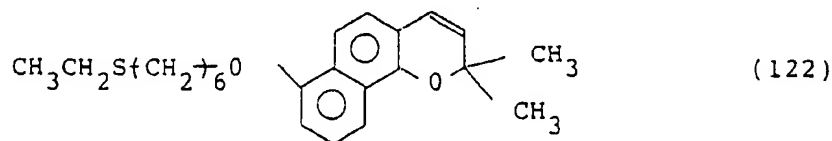
Example 122

In 100 ml of toluene was dissolved 10 g (0.0328 mole) of a compound represented by the following formula:



and 18.71 g (0.00820 mole) of titanium tetraethoxide was added to the solution at room temperature. Ethanol was removed by azeotropic distillation. Then, toluene was added to the residue to form 500 ml of a reaction liquid. Then, a solution of 4.14 g (0.0492 mole) of 3-methyl-2-butenal in 300 ml of toluene was added to the reaction liquid and the mixture was refluxed for 8 hours. After the reaction, a saturated

aqueous solution of ammonium chloride was added to the reaction liquid and the mixture was extracted with ether. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the remaining product was purified by the chromatography on silica gel to obtain 6 g of a chromene compound represented by the following formula:



The elementary analysis values of the obtained compound were 74.61% for C, 8.03% for H, 8.64% for S and 8.72% for O, which were well in agreement with the theoretical values calculated from $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{30}\text{O}_2\text{S}$, that is, 74.55% for C, 8.16% for H, 8.65% for S and 8.64% for O. When the proton nuclear magnetic resonance spectrum was measured, it was found that a broad peak of 8H attributed to the methylene bonded to the carbon appeared in the vicinity of δ 1.0 to 2.3 ppm, a triplet peak attributed to the methyl of the ethyl group bonded to the sulfur atom appeared in the vicinity of δ 1.3 ppm, a multiplet peak of 4H attributed to the proton of the methylene bonded to the sulfur appeared in the vicinity of δ 2.5 ppm, a triplet peak of 2H attributed to the proton of the methylene bonded to the oxygen appeared in the vicinity of δ 4 ppm, doublet peaks attributed to the protons bonded to the 3- and 4-positions of the chromene appeared in the vicinity of δ 5.6 ppm and in the vicinity of δ 6.4 ppm, respectively, and a peak of 5H attributed to the proton of the naphthalene ring appeared in the vicinity of δ 6.5 to 8.0 ppm. When the ^{13}C -NMR was measured, it was found that a peak attributed to the carbon of the methyl group bonded at the 2-position and a peak attributed to the long-chain alkylene group appeared in the vicinity of δ 14 to 40 ppm, a peak attributed to the carbon of the methylene bonded to the oxygen appeared in the vicinity of δ 70 ppm, a peak attributed to the carbon at the 2-position of the chromene appeared in the vicinity of δ 80 ppm, a peak attributed to the carbon at the 3,4-position of the chromene and a peak attributed to the carbon of the naphthalene ring appeared in the vicinity of δ 115 to 135 ppm, and a peak attributed to the carbon of the naphthalene ring bonded to the oxygen appeared in the vicinity of δ 150 ppm.

From the foregoing results, it was confirmed that the isolated product is the compound represented by the above-mentioned structural formula (122).

Example 123 through 146

Various chromene compounds were synthesized from starting compounds shown in Table 6 in the same manner as described in Examples 121 and 122.

The structures of the obtained compounds were analyzed by using the same structure-confirming means as adopted in Example 121. It was confirmed that the obtained compounds are compounds represented by structural formulae shown in Table 6. The elementary analysis values of the obtained compounds and the theoretical values calculated from the structural formulae of the compounds are shown in Table 7.

Table 6

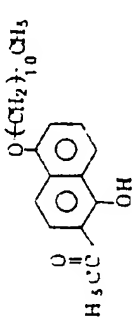
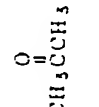
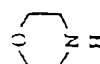
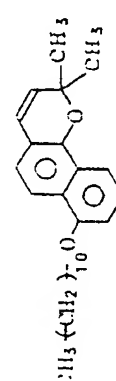
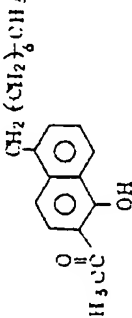
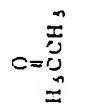
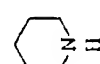
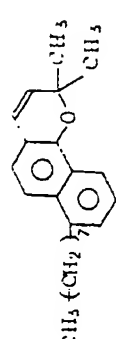
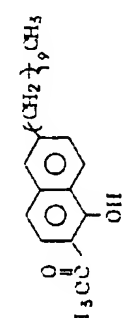
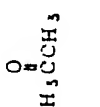
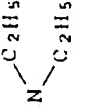
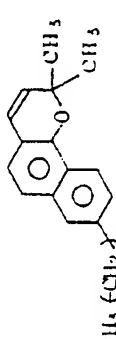
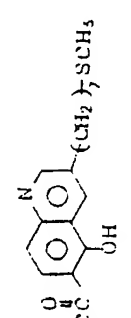
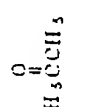

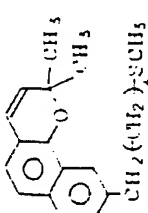
Example No.	Starting Compounds		Condensing agent	Products	Yield (%)
123					42
124					45
125					37
126					45

Table 6 (continued)

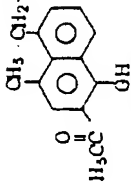
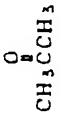

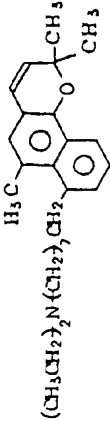
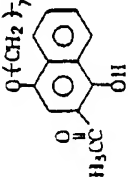
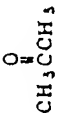

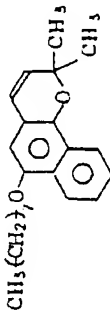
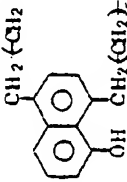

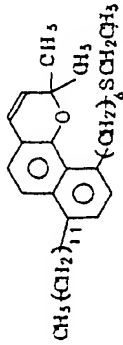
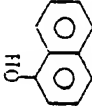

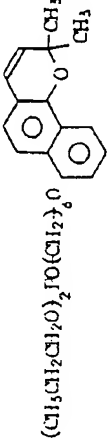
Example No.	Starting Compounds		Condensing agent	Products	Yield (%)
127					40
128					48
129			$\text{Ti}(\text{OC}_2\text{H}_5)_4$		60
130			$\text{Ti}(\text{OC}_2\text{H}_5)_4$		65

Table 6 (continued)

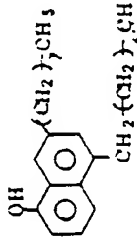
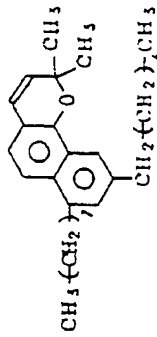
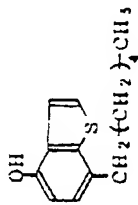
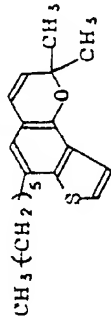
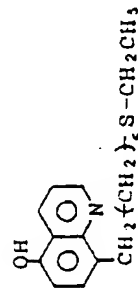
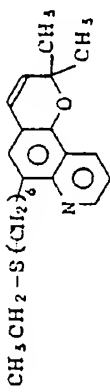
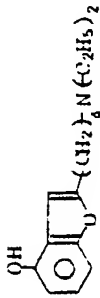
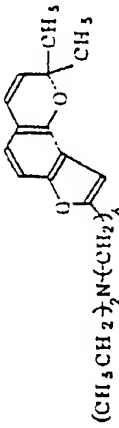
Example No.	Starting Compounds	Condensing agent	Products	Yield (%)
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132	 $\text{CH}_3\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CHCHO}$	$\text{Al}(\text{OEt})_3$		50
133	 $\text{CH}_3\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CHCHO}$	SnCl_4		40
134	 $\text{CH}_3\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CHCHO}$	SnCl_4		35

Table 6 (continued)

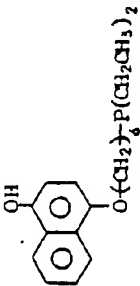
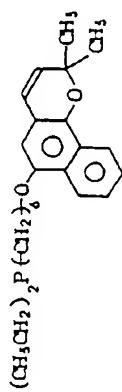
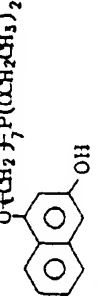
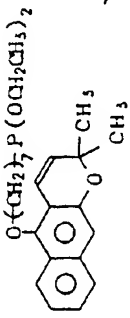
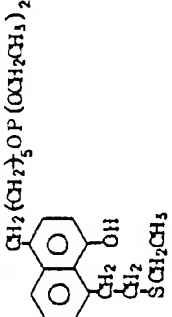
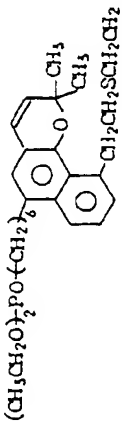
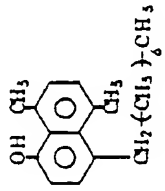
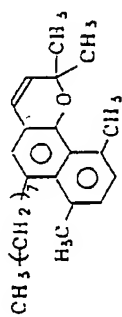
Example No.	Starting Compounds		Condensing agent	Products	Yield (%)
135		$\text{CH}_3\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)=\text{CHCHO}$	$\text{Ti}(\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3)_4$		68
136		"	$\text{Ti}(\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3)_4$		70
137		"	$\text{Ti} \left(\begin{array}{c} \text{CH}_3 \\ \\ \text{O}-\text{CH} \\ \\ \text{CH}_3 \end{array} \right)_4$		52
138		"	$\text{Ti}(\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3)_4$		75

Table 6 (continued)

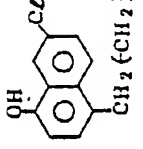
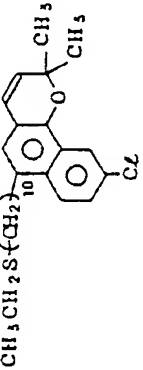
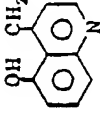
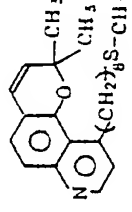
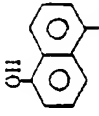
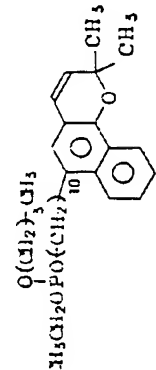
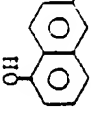
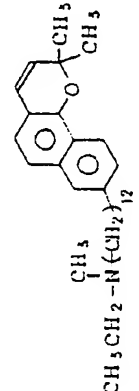
Example No.	Starting Compounds		Condensing agent	Products	Yield (%)
139		$\text{CH}_3\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CHCHO}$	$\text{Al}(\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_3)_3$		55
140		"	"		60
141		$\text{CH}_2(\text{CH}_2)_9\text{OPO}(\text{CH}_2)_5\text{CH}_3$ OCH_2CH_3	$\text{Ti}(\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_3)_4$		50
142		"	"		45

Table 6 (continued)

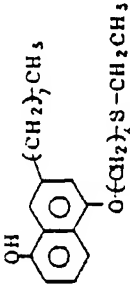
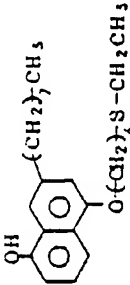
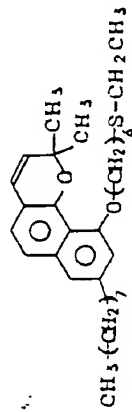
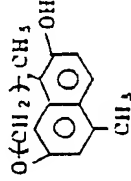
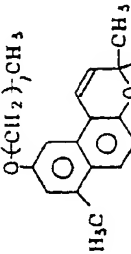
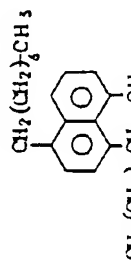
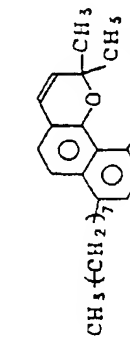
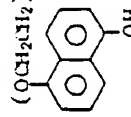
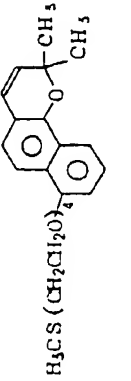
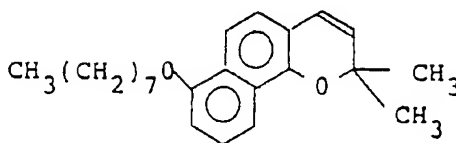
Example No.	Starting Compounds		Condensing agent	Products	Yield (%)
143	 $\text{CH}_3\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)=\text{CHCHO}$		$\text{T}_1 (\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_3)_4$		63
144		"	"		67
145		"	"		72
146		"	"		60

Table 7

Compound No.	Elementary Analysis Values									
	Analysis Values (%)					Theoretical Values (%)				
	C	H	N	O	others	C	H	N	O	others
123	84.36	6.99	-	8.65	-	84.29	7.07	-	8.64	-
124	85.05	9.81	-	5.14	-	85.11	9.74	-	5.15	-
125	85.48	11.21	-	3.31	-	85.65	11.09	-	3.26	-
126	74.30	8.27	3.90	4.51	S:9.08	74.32	8.22	3.94	4.50	S:9.02
127	82.37	10.36	3.52	3.75	-	82.50	10.14	3.44	3.92	-
128	81.46	8.71	-	9.83	-	81.61	8.93	-	9.46	-
129	80.31	10.62	-	3.09	S:5.98	80.40	10.41	-	3.06	S:6.13
130	68.51	8.12	-	16.96	P:6.41	68.33	8.28	-	16.86	P:6.53
131	85.73	10.41	-	3.86	-	85.65	10.67	-	3.68	-
132	77.61	7.31	-	5.15	S:9.93	77.73	7.46	-	4.93	S:9.88
133	74.17	8.30	3.86	4.60	S:9.07	74.32	8.22	3.94	4.50	S:9.02
134	77.49	9.50	3.87	9.14	-	77.70	9.36	3.94	9.00	-
135	75.41	8.86	-	8.03	P:7.70	75.35	8.85	-	8.03	P:7.77
136	70.23	8.40	-	14.57	P:6.80	70.25	8.39	-	14.39	P:6.97
137	67.21	8.34	-	12.40	S:6.07	67.15	8.36	-	12.34	S:6.18
					P:5.98					P:5.97
138	85.52	9.81	-	4.67	-	85.66	9.78	-	4.56	-
139	72.77	8.46	-	3.62	S:7.30	72.86	8.38	-	3.59	S:7.20
					Cl:7.85					Cl:7.97
140	75.26	8.57	3.58	4.18	S:8.41	75.15	8.67	3.65	4.17	S:8.36
141	71.76	9.75	-	12.31	P:6.18	71.88	9.80	-	12.34	P:5.98
142	82.01	10.97	3.27	3.75	-	82.09	11.07	3.19	3.65	-
143	77.21	9.42	-	6.69	S:6.68	77.13	9.60	-	6.63	S:6.64
144	81.63	9.21	-	9.16	-	81.77	9.15	-	9.08	-
145	85.70	10.79	-	3.51	-	85.65	10.67	-	3.68	-
146	66.60	7.49	-	18.58	S:7.33	66.67	7.41	-	18.51	S:7.41

Example 147

The compound synthesized in Example 121, which was represented by the following formula:



was dissolved and dispersed in polymethyl methacrylate with the aid of benzene, and a cast film was formed on a slide glass sheet (11.2cm x 3.7 cm) so that the concentration of the compound in the film was 1.0×10^{-4} mole/g and the thickness of the film was 0.1 mm. The photochromic film was irradiated with rays of a mercury lamp (SHL-100 supplied by Toshiba) located 10 cm apart from the film at $25^\circ\text{C} \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ for 60 seconds to effect coloration in the film, and the photochromic characteristics were examined with respect to items described below.

The obtained results are shown in Table 8.

Maximum absorption wavelength (λ_{max}):

The maximum absorption wavelength λ_{max} of the colored film was determined by using a spectrophotometer (220A supplied by Hitachi).

ϵ (60 seconds):

After 60 seconds' irradiation under the above-mentioned conditions, the absorbance at the maximum absorption wavelength was measured.

ϵ (0 second):

The absorbance at the maximum absorption wavelength of the unirradiated film was measured.

Half-value period $t^{1/2}$:

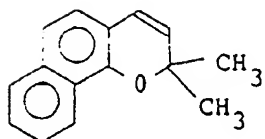
After 60 seconds' irradiation, the time required for reduction of the absorbance of the film to 1/2 of [ϵ (60seconds)- ϵ (0 second)] was measured.

Life $T^{1/2}$:

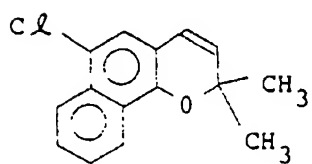
The photochromic film was irradiated by Xenon Long-Life Fade Meter FAL-250 AX-HC supplied by Suga Shikenki, and the time required for the color density to decrease to 1.2 of the initial value measured.

Examples 148 through 172

The photochromic characteristics of the compounds prepared in Examples 122 through 146 were measured in the same manner as described in Example 147. The obtained results are shown in Table 8. For comparison, films were similarly prepared by using chromene compounds represented by the following formulae (173) through (175) and the photochromic characteristics were similarly measured:

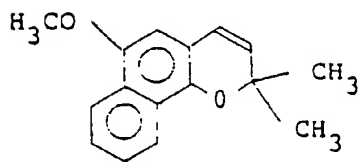


(173)



(174)

and



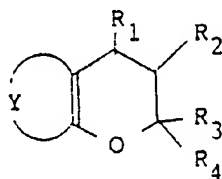
(175)

Table 8

Example No.	Compound No.	λ_{max} (nm)	ϵ (60 seconds) - ϵ (0 seconds)	$t^{1/2}$ (seconds)	$T^{1/2}$ (hours)
147	121	466	0.6	60	70
148	122	466	0.6	40	65
149	123	466	0.6	59	70
150	124	450	0.5	58	80
151	125	450	0.6	58	80
152	126	445	0.7	42	90
153	127	450	0.5	35	80
154	128	468	0.5	70	70
155	129	452	0.6	35	80
156	130	466	0.5	28	70
157	131	452	0.6	57	90
158	132	489	0.5	65	80
159	133	450	0.6	42	75
160	134	430	0.5	46	70
161	135	446	0.6	46	80
162	136	440	0.1	18	50
163	137	450	0.6	25	70
164	138	457	0.5	60	80
165	139	450	0.6	41	85
166	140	440	0.6	40	90
167	141	450	0.5	30	75
168	142	450	0.5	38	80
169	143	467	0.5	42	85
170	144	412	0.1	17	70
171	145	452	0.6	57	85
172	146	445	0.6	39	80
Comparative Example No.1	173	445	0.5	80	20
Comparative Example No.2	174	464	0.5	90	15
Comparative Example No.3	175	466	0.5	90	25

Claims

1. A compound represented by the following general formula(I):



(I)

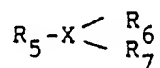
wherein R_1 and R_2 , which may be the same or different, represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group, an aralkyl group or a substituted amino group. R_3 and R_4 , which may be the same or different, represent an alkyl group, or R_3 and R_4 together form a norbornylidene group or bicyclo[3.3.1]nonylidene group which may have a substituent, and



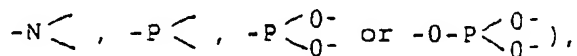
represents a divalent aromatic hydrocarbon group or divalent unsaturated heterocyclic group which may have a substituent, with the proviso that when R_3 and R_4 represent an alkyl group,



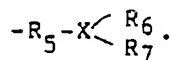
represents a bicyclic aromatic fused ring which is substituted with at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkoxy group, $-R_5-S-R_6$ and



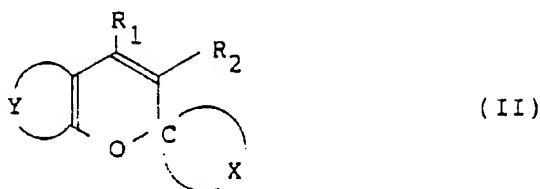
(in which R_5 represents an alkylene group or $\{O-R_8\}_n$ (in which R_8 represents an alkylene group and n is a positive integer), R_6 and R_7 , which may be the same or different, represent an alkyl group, and X represents



at least one of the substituents being an alkyl group having 6 to 20 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 6 to 20 carbon atoms, $-R_5-S-R_6$ or



2. A compound represented by the following general formula (II):



wherein

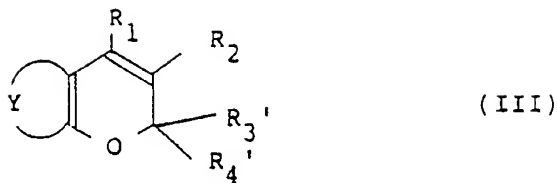


represents a norbornylidene group or bicyclo[3.3.1]nonylidene group which may have a substituent,



represents a divalent aromatic hydrocarbon group or divalent unsaturated heterocyclic group, and R_1 and R_2 , which may be the same or different, represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group, an alkyl group or substituted amino group.

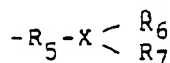
3. A compound represented by the following general formula (III):



10 wherein R_1 and R_2 , which may be the same or different, represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group, an aralkyl group or a substituted amino group, R_3 and R_4 , which may be the same or different, represent an alkyl group,

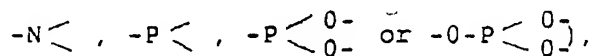


represents a bicyclic aromatic fused ring which is substituted with at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkoxy group, $-R_5-S-R_6$ and

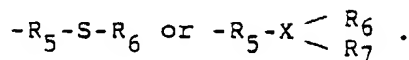


(in which R_5 represents an alkylene group or $\{O-R_8\}_n$ (in which R_8 represents an alkylene group and n is a positive integer), R_6 and R_7 , which may be the same or different, represent an alkyl group, and X represents

25



30 at least one of the substituents being an alkyl group having 6 to 20 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 6 to 20 carbon atoms,



4. A compound as set forth in claim 2, wherein



is a norbornylidene group or bicyclo(3,3,1)nonylidene group which may be substituted with at least one member selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a cyano group, a nitro group, a carboxyl group, an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, a halogenoalkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, an aryl group having 6 to 10 carbon atoms, an aryloxy group having 6 to 10 carbon atoms, an aralkyl group having 7 to 10 carbon atoms, an aralkoxy group having 7 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkylamino group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, a dialkylamino group having 2 to 8 carbon atoms and an alkoxycarbonyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

45

50 5. A compound as set forth in claim 2, wherein



55 is a divalent aromatic hydrocarbon group or divalent unsaturated heterocyclic group which may be substituted with at least one member selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a cyano group, a nitro group, an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, an aryl group having 6 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkylamino group having 1 to 4 carbon

atoms, a dialkylamino group having 2 to 8 carbon atoms, a halogenoalkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and 5- and 6-membered monocyclic heterocyclic groups having one to two of sulfur, oxygen and nitrogen atoms.

6. A compound as set forth in claim 2, wherein the divalent aromatic hydrocarbon group is a divalent group derived from one benzene ring or a fused ring comprising 2 to 4 benzene rings.

7. A compound as set forth in claim 2, wherein the divalent unsaturated heterocyclic group is a divalent group derived from a 5- or 6-membered monocyclic heterocyclic ring containing one to two of sulfur, oxygen and nitrogen atoms, or a fused heterocyclic ring formed by fusion of a benzene ring to said monocyclic heterocyclic ring.

8. A compound as set forth in claim 2, wherein the divalent aromatic hydrocarbon group is a divalent group derived from a benzene ring, a naphthalene ring or a phenanthrene ring.

9. A compound as set forth in claim 2, wherein the unsaturated heterocyclic group is a divalent group derived from a pyridine ring, a quinoline ring, a pyrrole ring, a furan ring, a benzofuran ring, a thiophene ring or a benzothiophene ring.

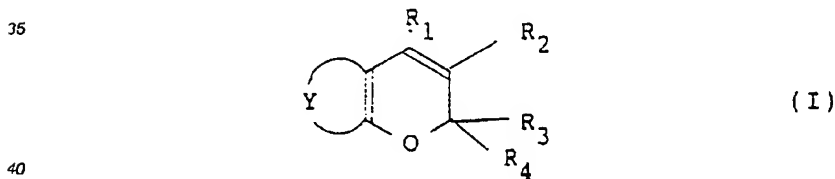
10. A compound as set forth in claim 1, wherein R_1 and R_2 , which may be the same or different, represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, an aryl group having 6 to 10 carbon atoms, an aralkyl group having 7 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkylamino group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, a dialkylamino group having 2 to 8 carbon atoms or a monovalent group derived from a 4- to 7-membered monocyclic saturated heterocyclic ring containing at least one nitrogen atom, or a nitrogen atom and an oxygen atom or sulfur atom.

11. A compound as set forth in claim 10, wherein the monovalent group derived from the monocyclic saturated heterocyclic ring is represented by the following formula:



wherein R_9 represents an alkylene group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms, an azoalkylene group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms, a thioalkylene group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms and an oxyalkylene group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms.

12. A composition comprising a compound represented by the following general formula (I):



wherein



R_1 , R_2 , R_3 and R_4 are as defined in general formula (I) in claim 1, and a polymer.

13. A composition as set forth in claim 12, wherein the amount of the compound represented by general formula (I) is 0.001 to 70 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the polymer.

14. A photochromic lens comprising a composition as set forth in claim 12 or 13.

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Fig. 1

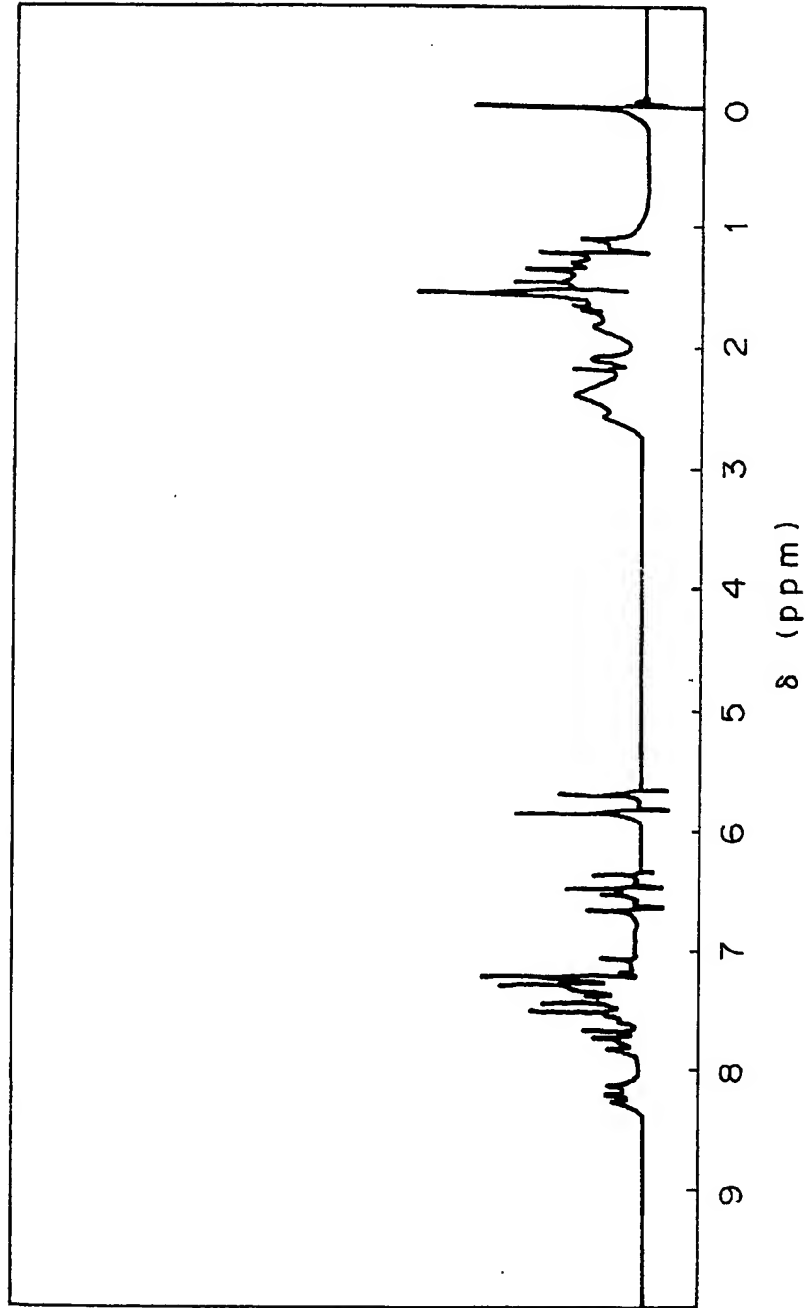
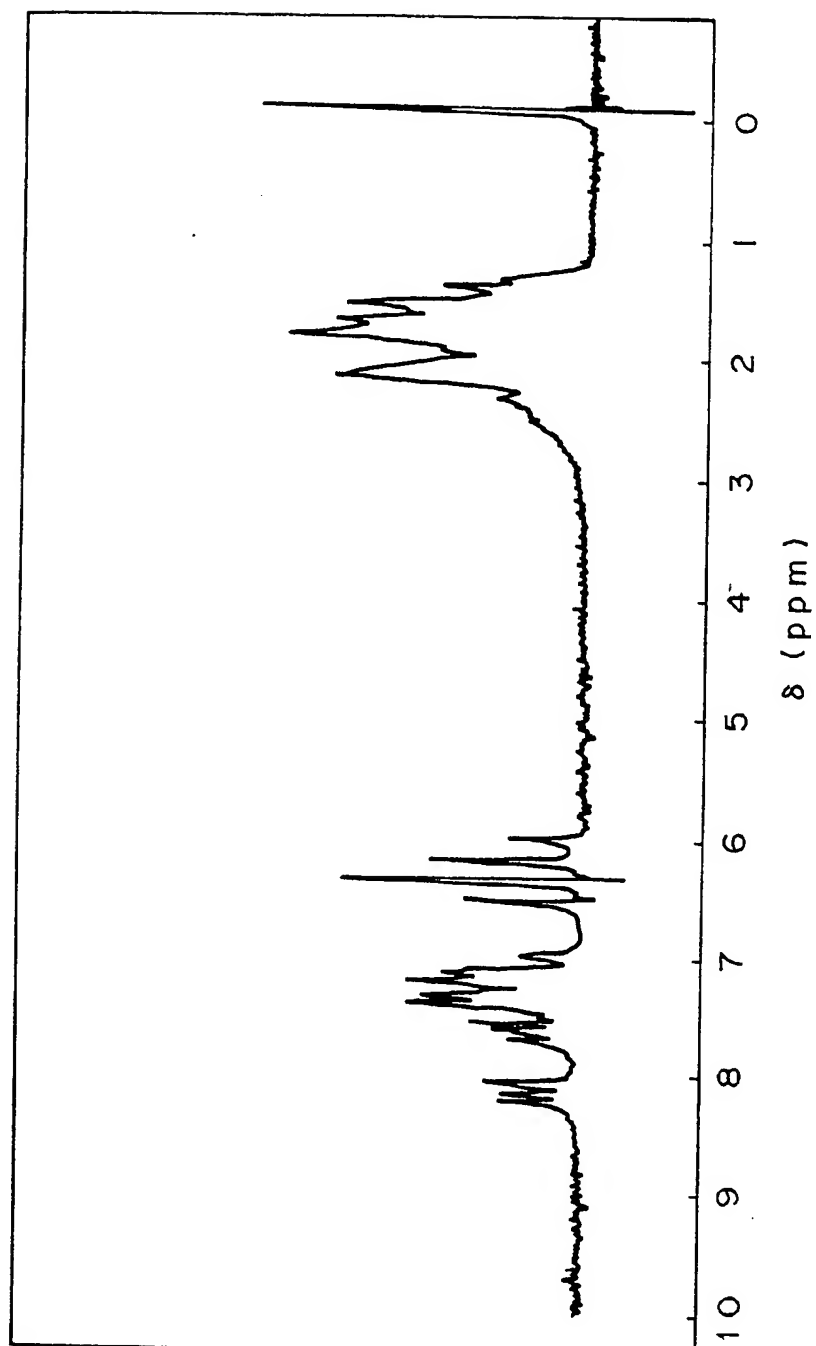
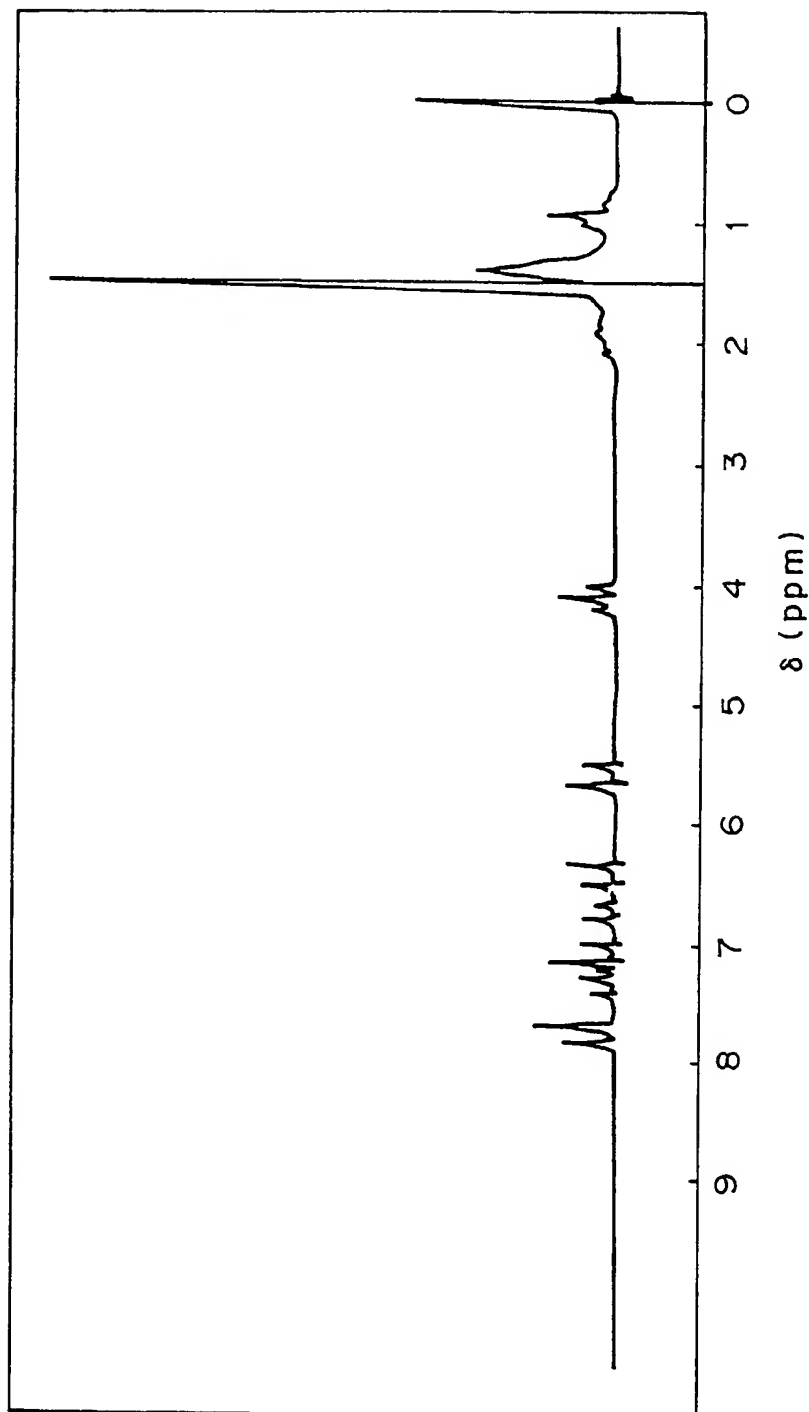


Fig. 2



03-40-90

Fig. 3



EP 0 401 958 A2

Revised/Amended
Application